THE

North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. XVIII., NO. 517. SHANGHAI, APRIL 5, 1877. PRICE, TLS. 12 PER AN.

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Latest Mail dates in England, from China.

Hongkong, ...	Jan. 11	Received 15th Feb.
Shanghai, ...	„ 5	

BIRTHS.

At Shanghai, on the 29th March, the wife of EDWARD BELBIN, of a daughter.

At Tientsin, on the 27th March, the wife of G. W. COLLINS, of a son.

DEATH.

At Chinkiang, on the 30th ultimo, very suddenly, A. W. SPENCER.

PRICE OF THE *NORTH-CHINA HERALD and S. C. & C. GAZETTE*.—Per Annum, Taels 12; Six Months, Taels 6.50. Three Months, 3.50—*all payable in advance*. Credit price, Tls. 13.15 per Annum; Subscriptions will be considered as renewed unless notice to the contrary be given before the expiry of the current term.

SUBSCRIPTIONS received, and Single Copies sold, by GEORGE STREET,
30, Cornhill,
LONDON *(E.C.)*

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THE publication of the *North-China Herald and Supreme Court & Consular Gazette* commenced at 5.45 P.M.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, THURSDAY, APR. 5, 1877.

It is difficult to understand the precise motive of the Circular which has been lately issued by the Inspector-General of Customs—at the instance presumably of the Tsung-li-yamên—regarding the alleged attempts of the Chinese to negociate a loan. No doubt there may have been exaggeration in the rumours; possibly one negociation was multiplied into four or five by public gossip; and it is unpleasant for an individual and undignified for a Government to be spoken of too freely as an eager borrower. It is a question, however, whether Governments do not show more discretion in leaving such reports to rectify themselves, or at best by correcting them in an informal way, than by issuing manifestoes which are sure to be sharply criticised. The recent Circular, for instance, has quite failed to convince people that no loans have been contemplated, or even that no one has Imperial Authority at present to negociate one. Of course there may be question as to what Imperial Authority means; very probably no one may have in his pocket authority under the vermilion seal; but it is still believed that negociations have been in progress, with the full knowledge of the Tsung-li-yamên, for the completion of a loan. It will be remembered that we wrote some time ago of negociations that were said to be in progress for a loan from Japan, which was to be advanced in the shape of produce. The report was perfectly true, and arrangements were actually concluded for a loan of Tls. 2,500,000, when it was found that the mandarin who had been conducting the negociations lacked the requisite powers. This was the Hsü Taotai so especially pointed to in Mr. Hart's Circular; but though it is quite evident that he was acting without the requisite authority, there can be no doubt that he was in a manner deputed. The money was wanted for the North-west, and the mandarin in question was delegated by Kin'shun, the General commanding the army whose successes we have lately seen chronicled; but he appears not to have had the authority of the Viceroy, and his action is consequently ignored by the Tsung-li-yamên. The necessary powers—both from Kansuh and from Peking—are, however, said to be possessed by Wu, the wealthy Hangchow banker, who is reported to have taken up and continued the same negociation, though on somewhat different conditions. He very sensibly declines to take rice and seaweed and *cash*, but is quite ready to take hard sycee. The object of the Japanese is to dispose advantageously of the rice which they receive in kind. This represents more or less a surplus production of the country, which is not needed for home consumption; and by disposing of it abroad the Government calculates on strengthening the price of grain, and so benefitting the peasant producer at home. Here, then, is China anxious to borrow and Japan willing to lend, the medium only being inconvenient. That difficulty is said to have been in a fair way of removal, through the intervention of certain Foreign merchants and bankers in Yokohama, who have agreed to buy up the rice for export, at a certain value, and so provide Japan with the coin which China is ready to borrow. The amount is said to be Tls. 5,000,000, to be guaranteed as usual on the revenues of the Customs. A certain proportion

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of these revenues are allotted yearly to the support of the army in the North-west; but the Viceroy wants ready money and not prospective income; and wants to obtain the necessary funds by mortgaging these prospective appropriations to the amount indicated. Whether the especial loan whose history we have sketched will now be brought to pass, or whether the Chinese have been advised to negotiate in other quarters, may be open to doubt since the appearance of the Circular. But there seems to be very little room for doubt that China is a borrower, or of the purpose for which the money is needed.

Summary of News.

The English mail of the 16th February arrived Sunday, by the P. & O. steamer *Khiva*.

A mail leaves to-morrow for Europe, by the P. & O. steamer *Khiva*.

We hear late telegrams have been received, to the effect that England has declined to renew negotiations on the Eastern Question unless Russia demobilizes; and that it is thought likely Russia will assent to do so.

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Yacht Club was called for Tuesday evening at the Lower Boat-house, but a quorum not being present no business could be transacted.

The usual services were observed in the Cathedral and other places of worship in the Settlement on Good Friday and Easter Day.—On the latter occasion, however, there was very little decoration in the Cathedral. A cross of evergreens and camelias was raised on the super-altar, with the inscription, "Alleluia"; and the entrance to the chancel was adorned with camelias and geraniums, the font also being similarly ornamented, and bearing the inscription, "One Lord; one Faith; one Baptism." The services were full choral, the anthem in the morning being Dr. Elvoy's "Christ is risen," and in the evening, "I know that my Redeemer liveth" with the following quartetts and choruses, from the *Messiah*, the soprano solo being beautifully rendered. The Very Rev. the Dean preached in the morning from Hosea, 6th chapter 2nd verse; and in the evening from Acts, 2nd chapter, 24th verse.—At the Church of our Saviour, Hongkew, there was no decoration, but the following anthems were sung:—Before morning service, "Christ the Lord is risen to-day," and before the evening service, "The Lord is in His holy temple." Sermons suitable to the day were preached by the Rev. Dr. Nelson, in the morning from St. Matthew, 28th chapter, 6th verse; and in the evening from St. Mark, 9th chapter, 10th verse. —At the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Joseph, High Mass was celebrated, the music being by *Mercadante*. The altar and church generally were profusely decorated with flowers and banners. Near the close of the Mass, the St. Cecilia amateur band played a triumphal march. In the evening, at the termination of the service, the band played a selection of music before a large audience invited by Father Des Jacques; it being, we believe the first appearance of the band in public.—At the new Roman Catholic Cathedral in Hongkew, the ordinary services were performed, the only difference being the introduction of one or two extra pieces of music.

Monday, the doubled tax on wheelbarrows came into force, the coolies being now required to pay 400 *cash* each per month instead of 200. Nearly all of them struck against the additional impost; and early in the day, some hundreds, without their barrows, assembled in the precincts of the Mixed Court, and sought the advice and protection of the Magistrate. Chén at once hastened to the Central Police Station and reported the matter, but was of course told that the Police had no power to interfere; it was a Municipal order and must be carried out. It also appeared that nearly all the coolies were prepared with their ordinary tax of 200 *cash* each, which was all they had in their possession, and that although some of them were willing to pay the double tax, they were unable to do so for want of means. Others, again, evinced a determination to resist the increase, and several who had paid the 400 *cash* and received their license, were waylaid in the village opposite the Race-course in the course of the forenoon, and robbed of their ticket, which was instantly torn up and thrown away. On these facts becoming known to the Police, measures were taken to prevent such attacks, and constables were detailed to watch in all quarters. The coolies continued to assemble in groups throughout the day, but no further outrages were reported, and as the day wore on, those who had money began to call for their licenses; but instead of the 800 or 1,000 who usually take them out on the first day, only about 200 obtained them. The sudden withdrawal from traffic of thousands of wheelbarrows gave the streets a peculiarly deserted look, though enhancing the convenience of drivers.

A few more coolies paid their double tax Tuesday, but the majority still held out, and it is believed that many have gone home to their native districts.

Having protested against what they conceive to be an unjust impost, upwards of 1,600 have eventually paid the 400 *cash* each, and recommenced traffic.—It may not be generally known that many of these poor fellows have to maintain from their daily earnings with their barrow, not only themselves, but their fathers, mothers, and others dependent upon them. Cessation from labour, therefore, even for a day or two, means starvation, or next door to it, for a large population. It is no wonder they are trying to comply with the double tax; but we cannot agree in its imposition.

The licensing of jinrickshas commenced at five o'clock Tuesday morning, and, contrary to expectation, their owners attended in large numbers throughout the day to pay the increased tax, thereby showing that the traffic is a profitable one. Nearly all the vehicles had received a fresh coat of paint or varnish for the occasion, which literally in hundreds of instances hid rottenness and insecurity, giving the inspectors much trouble to detect previously-rejected ones. All these were of course again rejected, each vehicle being marked as the license was refused; but the owners were in many cases equal to the emergency, and by dint of scrubbing and scraping obliterated the marks and obtaining another runner, presented the same vehicle two or three times over. These attempts, however, did not succeed. Even with the reduction in numbers caused in this way, there is little probability of public inconvenience arising, for, we believe, the number of licenses will in future be unlimited.

About 2.30 Monday morning a shocking attempt to murder was made on board a native boat on the Soochow Creek. Two boats were moored together, a man and woman forming the crew of one, and a man only that of the other. This man solicited the woman to come to his boat, but the request was overheard by her companion, who got up and interfered. The fellow immediately took up a heavy wood-chopper and attacked him savagely, fracturing his skull in two places and inflicting a severe scalp wound besides. An alarm was given, and the injured man was rescued and removed by the Police to the Shantung road Hospital, where he now lies in a dangerous condition. His assailant was apprehended, and taken the same day before the Mixed Court. The Magistrate considered the case too serious for him to deal with, and sent both the accused and the woman into the City to be dealt with by the Chehsien. The woman treats the affair with great coolness. On being questioned as to its commencement she merely said she saw the men begin to fight, and knew no more about it.

The Rev. J. Thomas left by the *Peiho*, last week. His congregation presented him with an address, and a cheque for Tls. 1,000; and he was also the recipient of an address from the Temperance Society. The presentations are reported on another page.

We are told that our reference last week to a particular mandarin whose name has been connected with the rumoured negociations for a Chinese loan, has been misunderstood to mean the well-known Hangchow millionaire. We may at once say that the inference is mistaken. Our allusion was not to Wu, who is we believe —*pace* the Inspector-General—actually engaged in negociating a loan for Kansuh with the authority of the Tsung-li Yamên.

The late Tartar General of Fohkien, accompanied by his family and a large suite of attendants, occupying two steamgunboats, arrived at Shanghai on Sunday, *en route* for Peking. One of the vessels was moored in the stream, and the other laid alongside the wharf. The latter was housed in, the deck being converted into a reception-hall; and nearly all day yesterday, the French Bund was enlivened by the arrival and departure of numerous visitors. —The General took a trip on the railway to Woosung and back, Tuesday. He was accompanied by several local native officials who take an interest in the line; and in another carriage were about a dozen

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soldiers of his body-guard, in uniform. The train was an ordinary one, and there were besides a considerable number of other passengers. The General is reported to have expressed himself in favourable terms of the, to him, novel mode of travelling. It is to be hoped that the relation of his impression may have influence at Peking, towards which we will resume his voyage to Tientsin in the course of a day or two.

Mr. Robert Hart, the Inspector-General of Customs, arrived Sunday from the North, by the steamer *Chin-kiang*.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Davenport found the people at Tatung, Nganking, and Wuhu very friendly, and anticipating all sorts of prosperity from the coming foreign trade. At Wuhu, Mr. Davenport secured the reservation, for an English Settlement, of about a mile and a quarter of river frontage and any required depth, immediately beyond the Yi Ki-shan hill, where the *Frolic* took soundings from 4 to 7¼ fathoms close in shore. The matter was not closed finally, in order that the river may be carefully watched during the summer, and another place selected if the current runs too strongly at the point chosen. The land here is higher than that nearer the city; and if it be found, during the summer, too low for building purposes, the only remedy will be to resort to the adjacent hills.

We give on another page, statements made before W. H. Tapp, Esq., H.B.M.'s Registrar of Shipping, relative to the collision between the steamers *Loudoun Castle* and *Macgregor*, on the 25th ult.

A whale was washed on shore on the North bank, nearly opposite the Beacon, some three weeks ago. The fishermen at Woosung have since reaped a rich harvest from its blubber. The animal is stated to have been fifty-five feet in length, and to have weighed about two hundred and forty piculs. We understand that the lower jaw has been secured for the Asiatic Society's Museum.

H.B.M.'s gunboat *Midge* arrived Monday.

The Russian steamer *Batrak* grounded on the Blockhouse spit during Thursday night. Being unable to get off with her own power, three tug boats and about half a dozen lighters went to her assistance. The greater part of her cargo, coals from Nagasaki, had to be either lightered or jettisoned; and it was not until midnight on Sunday that she was towed off. During Saturday night a high sea was running, and one of the lighters was swamped. It has not quite disappeared, and it is expected that it will soon be raised. The *Batrak* came up the river Monday, and anchored below the Naval yard.

The China Merchants Steam Navigation Company's str. *Hochung* came into port on the evening of the 29th ult., having been away between four and five months. When she left she was cleared for Swatow; thence she returned to Amoy and took coolies to Singapore. From there she went to Penang, Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon; and on her northerly passage called at Penang, Singapore, Hongkong, Amoy and Foochow.

We have received from the Customs Press a copy of the "Reports on Trade at the Treaty Ports for 1875."

We have received the January-February number of the *China Review*, which opens with a continuation of Mr. Watters' essays on the Chinese Language.—An instalment follows, of an interesting paper on Deer Stalking in Anhwei and Kiangsi.—Drs. Kerr and Rogers contribute a paper on Chinese Dentistry, and affirm that the charmed powders with which native practitioners pretend to extract teeth are all a sham, having for their purpose to distract the patient's attention from the use of an instrument.—Dr. Bretschneider continues his notes on Chinese intercourse with the countries of Central and Western Asia during the fifteenth century.—Mr. Playfair contributes a pleasant versification of the "Legend of the Peking Bell-tower."—Mr. Alabaster (!) gives a further series of decisions in illustration of the Chinese law of evidence.—Some reviews and briefer notices of new books, and a few Notes and Queries complete the volume.

We have to acknowledge copies of *The China Scientific and Industrial Magazine*, edited by Mr. Fryer, and *The Child's Paper* edited by Mr. Farnham.

We call the attention of our readers to the Postal Union Tariff, coming into operation at the British Post Office for to-day's English mail. The postage now, *to* or *through* the United Kingdom, viâ Brindisi, is 16 cts. per ½ oz. for letters, 4 cts. for each newspaper, and 6 cts. per 2 oz. for books and patterns. To the United Kingdom, by *any other route* (Marseilles or Southampton), or to any other Union Country, by any route, 12 cts. per ½ oz. for letters, 2 cts. each newspaper, and 4 cts. per 2 oz. for books and patterns. The whole of the continent of Europe is included in the Union, so also are the United States of America, and some of the West Indian Islands. Letters to the Straits Settlements, by *any* opportunity, will be 12 cts. per ½ oz.; also for letters to India, Ceylon, Aden, and Malta, whether by British or Indian mail packets. Registration of correspondence in all cases 8 cents. Printed matter, &c., for France and the continent of Europe *must now be pre-paid*.

The entries for the Shanghai Spring Race meeting closed on Saturday, as follows:—

Chu-ka-za Cup	18
Criterion Stakes	7
Griffins' Plate	60
Jockey Cup	21
Brokers' Cup	22
Taotai's Cup	15
Roadsters' Plate	18
Grand Annual Steeplechase	10
Shanghai Cup	26
Shanghai Derby	39
Spring Cup	27
Concordia Cup	30
Race Club Cup	22
Tsatlee Cup	32
Hurdle Race	5
Shanghai Club Cup	46
Great Northern Plate	31
Ladies' Purse	10
Kiangsu Plate	21
Chau-shang-kiuk Cup	27
Consolation Cup	47

The entrance fees amount to Tls. 3,625. The attendance on the Course on Saturday was very numerous, and pows followed in rapid succession. Owing to the rain that has lately fallen, however, the course was somewhat soft; but the running was, nevertheless, good on the whole; and with the numerous entries above given, proportionate acceptances may be expected, and good fields be presented at the post. So far, taken altogether, the coming meeting bids fair to be one of the most successful ever known in Shanghai.

We understand that the Refugees who were encamped outside the South Gate left on the 27th March, for their native districts.

A gentleman writes from an outport—"I am glad to hear the Famine Relief Fund has been so liberally subscribed to in Shanghai, and will do what I can to raise one instantly, here. Mr. Richards' letter turns one sick with horror, and is bad enough with the exaggeration cleared away. By eating the thatch off their houses, Mr. Richards' informant meant not that they literally eat the thatch, but that by the sale of the thatch of their houses, they obtained money to procure a meal. And again, the sentence in which, quoting a Chinese evidently, he says in a few months the grass and weeds will spring up &c., should run; "in a month or two they will have the vegetable crop to keep life in them," but until then they have nothing to depend on. I have, however, seen a famine in that part of the world; and the night I once spent there, in a famine and fever-striken village, haunts me yet. I hope, therefore, you will be successful, and raise a sum sufficient to alleviate the suffering which must exist."

Lest it should be thought strange that Kinkiang does not figure in the published list of contributions to the Shantung Relief Fund, we are requested to say that it is because the resolution of the Shanghai Relief Committee to collect funds at the outports had been anticipated at Kiukiang; the Commissioner of Customs at that port having previously collected $403 from the native and foreign community, which was remitted direct to Chefoo."

The "Ninth Prince," as the youngest of the four Imperial Princes was commonly called, died at Peking on the 23rd March, after a long illness. His official designation was Prince of Fu. He was uterine brother of the Prince of Ch'un (the so-called seventh Prince, and father of the young Emperor); but, unlike the seventh Prince, he bore a high reputation for mildness and uprightness of character. He was about 35 years of age.

The adjourned meeting of Landrenters at Chinkiang was held on the 23rd instant. The estimates were presented for the ensuing year, showing an income of Tls. 2,248, against a probable outlay of Tls. 911, leaving a balance of Tls. 1,337.—Tenders were produced for repairing the Bund front; and Mr. Kingsmill was empowered to close with the contractor, but work cannot be begun till the autumn. The surplus for the current year would suffice for an instalment of the cost, the remainder falling upon 1878.—A tax of 5 % on rentals was agreed to.—Owners of vacant lots are to be requested to fence them in.—Application is to be made to H.B.M.'s Minister, that Chinese be allowed to own land in the Concession, subject to the usual conditions.—The Wharfage Dues scheme put forward at the last meeting is to be pushed.—A new road is to be made, connecting the South limit of the British Concession with the Nanking road.

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Editorial Selections.

WENCHOW.

Commissioners of Customs have been appointed and taken their stations at the several newly-opened ports, but although the officers who are to open English Consulates have been nominated, we have not yet any announcement of their having hoisted their flags. The date announced for the formal opening however, has passed; and we shall, we presume, soon see the Coast and Yangtze steamers advertised to call at Wênchow and Wuhu on their way to Foochow and to Hankow. It is worth while, in the meantime, to see what prospects there are for trade at these places, the opening of which has been so long talked of. And curiously enough, now that the moment has arrived, the natives at least at these two ports seem more anxious than foreigners for the consummation. The people of Wênchow especially are described as more friendly disposed than any with whom their visitors have yet come in contact, and as looking forward to commercial intercourse with foreigners with eager anticipation. Situated about eighteen miles from the sea, on the banks of a river which drains one of the most fertile districts of Chekeang, Wênchow should be a place of considerable trade; and so, in a quiet way, it seems to be. It is a question what degree of impulse will be given by the facilities for communication which the frequent passage of steamers will afford. The import of shirtings is at present said to reach a value of about $1,000,000 yearly, and that of opium some 3,000 to 4,000 chests. Considerable quantities of cotton are imported from Shanghai and Ningpo, and of sugar from Chinchew and Formosa; most of which will presumably furnish cargo for steamers when these enter upon the trade. This year, there has been a large import of rice, owing to the injury done by floods to the local crops, but that was a reversal of the ordinary course, Wênchow being generally a considerable exporter of the grain. The principal export is likely to be tea; and it is an interesting question how far this new outlet will affect the trade of Foochow. About 100,000 piculs are at present said to go to Shanghai and Foochow from the Ping-yang district; and the produce of the Peh-ling (Pak-lun) district, which now finds its way overland to Foochow, is tolerably certain to come by water to Wênchow instead, now the port is opened. Some 200,000 piculs are predicted from this neighbourhood, besides smaller quantities from other sources of supply. Silk is a feature of local industry, but of a coarse kind and used only for Chinese consumption; some is grown in the neighbourhood, but more is imported to supply the requirements of the local manufacturers; and the export of silk goods is said to reach about three quarters of a million taels. Native opium, alum, timber, and paper, are exported in considerable quantities; and iron is spoken of as a possible article of future commerce. The natives say it exists in large quantities in the districts of Chingtien and Taishan, and hope that the mines will be allowed to be worked after the opening of the port.—As we have mentioned on a former occasion, there is ample water for coasting steamers to come up to the city; and a site for the English Settlement has accordingly been selected in close proximity, outside the north-east angle of the wall. The river near the shore is too shallow for steamers to approach; and whether the business will be sufficient to justify the construction of wharves and pontoons, or whether it will be conducted by means of lighters, is for the future to decide. Earlier reports on the river had fixed on a place ten miles below the city as the proper site for a Settlement, under the impression apparently that steamers could not find anchorage nearer the city; but this has been shown to be a mistake, and the advantage of approaching as closely as possible to the business quarters of the Chinese, is evident. Wênchow was one place fortunate enough to escape capture by the Taepings, and is therefore in exceptionally good condition. It is clean and well-paved, and the people are prosperous. Their good disposition towards foreigners has been always remarked on; and the courtesy shown by the gentry to the official visitors who have lately been prospecting in their neighborhood, has been as marked as the ill-will evinced by the same class at Ichang. Let us hope that the results from the opening of their port will be as satisfactory as they anticipate.

THE C. M. S. N. CO.

We have so often drawn attention to the anomalous character of the so-called Chinese Merchants' Company that, were it not that that peculiar organisation has been paraded in many quarters as an evidence of a desire for progress on behalf of the *de facto* Government of China, one might well afford to let the matter rest for the nonce. A few plain words in the present state of affairs may, however, not be out of place. It has been suggested that, in fair competition, foreign steamer enterprise has been outstripped by Chinese, and that the formation and extension of a Chinese Company proves that the latter are becoming formidable rivals in our own particular branches of business. We may state at first that no foreign shareholders are permitted in the Chinese Merchants' Company; and that, being managed by Government appointees bearing official rank, no scrutiny of accounts such as we are accustomed to is possible. Year by year accounts have indeed been presented, but inspection of them seems to throw little light on the actual position of the Company. Profits have been shown and divided, but as no provision seems to have been made for repairs or depreciation of property in such perishable stock as steamers, it is at least doubtful how far the Company has been a commercial success. It has been stated, on what we believe to be trustworthy authority, that the wants of the Company in money have been regularly supplied through the exertions of the Viceroys of Chihli and the Liang Kiang; and as those officials have in their control the revenues of at least four out of the eighteen provinces, the source whence the supplies come is little problematical. The Managers of the Company are nominees of these all important Mandarins, and themselves bear official rank, so that the name applied to it, of the Chinese Merchant's Company, "Chan-shang chio," is in every sense a misnomer. A closer investigation into the composition of the organisation does not tend to improve matters. It was founded with the object of conveying the tribute rice to the capital. For nine years it seemed that the system of sending grain to the north was in process of being abandoned. It acted oppressively on the provinces whence it was drawn; it interfered with the natural course of trade between north and south; and by no means least, by flooding the northern market with a forced import, it interfered with the agricultural prosperity of the northern provinces, more especially Chihli. On the other hand it afforded berths to a crowd of officials, and more especially it threw an enormous amount of patronage into the hands of the Viceroy of Chihli, and enabled him to provide for those attached to his court. It was easy, of course, to make out a patriotic motive. Foreigners were monopolising the coasting trade of China, and in the eyes of Chinese mandarins were bleeding the vitals of the country by conveying goods cheaper and more safely than they had ever been carried before. Formerly, in the old junk days, the rate of remuneration fixed for the conveyance of rice from Shanghai to Tientsin was six mace a *shih*. Foreign steamers were willing to carry it at less than half that amount, and, assuming that the rice tribute was to be carried on, the difference in the charge would have been a saving to the country. Such an arrangement would, however, not have suited the views of the mandarins more immediately interested. A native company might possibly have been started, but this would have been introducing a measure of freedom of trade. It was evident from the information gained, that six mace per *shih* would leave an ample margin to a properly constituted company; and as plums of this kind look nice in official eyes, the starting of the China Merchants' Company, under official patronage, though with at first nominally mercantile capital, was determined on. Pressure was brought to bear on a few merchants to invest in the new under-

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taking, but it is noteworthy that the private element has, since the formation of the Company, steadily declined, while at no time was it permitted any voice in the management. If the support given to the finances of the Company, by a subsidy of double what the conveyance of rice would have cost in the open market, had remained alone, apologies might have been offered as to the good policy of fostering a native trade, even although that native trade was injurious to the interests of native merchants. But it did not. In the old days when junks were employed in the service and Customs' arrangements were notoriously lax, a custom arose of remitting duties on goods other than rice carried in those vessels. So favourable an opportunity was not lost on the promoters of the new organisation, and accordingly the vessels of the China Merchants' Company were permitted to convey to Tientsin, duty free, a certain part of their cargo in proportion to the amount of rice conveyed. When it is remembered that the coast trade duties have been fixed by tariff at an assessment of 7½ per cent. on the valuation, it will readily be perceived what a powerful engine is placed in the hands of the institution, and how seriously it presses on all interests alike; for the duties thus remitted have of course to be made up in other and more oppressive ways. Even here, however, the peculiar privileges of the organization do not end. By the treaty of Tientsin it was provided that tonnage dues should be levied on foreign vessels, and that those dues should be devoted to keeping up lights and improving harbours. As the vessels of the China Merchants' Company make equal use of those facilities, it might be presumed that tonnage dues levied on them would be applied to like uses. As a matter of fact, if tonnage dues are levied at all, they do not pass into the Tonnage Due Fund. Foreign vessels, and foreign vessels alone, are taxed to keep up the lights and harbours of China. So much for the public and other advantages possessed by the China Merchants' Company. Its official position in a country so mandarin-rid as China, enables pressure of all kinds to be brought to force native merchants to support it. Practically most native merchants are in the power of the mandarins for the time being. There is little use trying to contravene the expressed wishes of a magistrate who has the whole of the official class, from Viceroy to the lowest hanger on of a Yamên, at his back. Stories are prevalent as to the means adopted by more than one merchant to avoid being entangled in such meshes. It seemed very desirable to keep up the colourable mercantile character of the organisation after the arrangement for the purchase of the S. S. N. Co. had been completed, but Chinese merchants have not shown any great alacrity to come forward. Accordingly some few who were interested in the old Company have been requested to join the new. It is not etiquette to refuse such a request, when made by a high mandarin with very considerable powers of annoyance or possibly harm; but we will put it in the mildest terms as a matter of etiquette, that the merchants were still desirous of being excused. Something therefore was necessary to be done. Fortunately the relief of the Shantung sufferers was exercising the residents at Shanghai; so the honour of joining the China Merchants' Company was declined, but the refusal was accompanied by various drafts of corresponding amounts in favour of the sufferers by the famine. Even a mandarin could not refuse to acknowledge such a gift, but we can well argue from such an example the influences at work. Now all these things may be beyond the sphere of diplomatic action at Peking, or they may not; but at all events it is well that those intrusted with the mercantile interests of foreign nations with China should bear them in mind. The supercession of foreign by native carrying companies, if carried out in a fair field, however aggravating it might be to our national pride, is not a thing to be clamoured against. We might regret it, but the remedy would lie in our own hands; we should simply have to go and do better. The present case is not, however, one of fair competition. It is started on an oppressive impost, and from the enforced incidence of the rice tribute to the irregular pressure brought to bear on native shippers, it is carried out in contravention of all sound economic principles.

THE INSURRECTION IN JAPAN.

The present insurrection in Japan, serious as it has undoubtedly been, seems to afford a prognostic that matters in that country are gradually settling down on their new basis. It could scarcely have been expected that so thorough a revolution as had been effected could have occurred without oscillations of public opinion, and the causes which have led up to the present rising show that such has been the case. In fact, looking upon the insurrection in this light, we are disposed to imagine that it augurs a period of tranquillity, and a final settling down in new grooves, rather than a permanent danger to the peace of the country. There seems little doubt that the Government has itself been more or less blameworthy in its dealings with the old Samurai. They accuse it of breach of faith towards themselves, and it certainly is difficult to altogether acquit it of the charge. Doubtless, it was compelled by financial difficulties not altogether of its own making to make some struggle to protect the State from impending bankruptcy; but on the other hand it had, as the price of the submission of the military class, made with it certain definite arrangements. It therefore seemed unreasonable that on that class alone should be imposed the burden of whatever means were necessary to restore public credit. The Government pleads that it has adopted in all other branches economical reforms, and doubtless this is actually the case; but still these changes are hardly compatible with the enforced offer of a commutation in place of a stipulated annuity; and the consequence is that the class, feeling itself aggrieved and holding that it was a party in an agreement with the State, has refused to accept the terms dictated to it. Fortunately for Japan, both sides have confined themselves to the point of quarrel. It is distinctly one between the Government and the old Military class. Both have announced that they intend to push their opinions to the utmost in the field, but that they do not seek to upset the stability of the Empire or to drag the people at large into the vortex. Hence has arisen the curious spectacle of a civil war where each side has been fighting bravely and determinedly, and yet private property and public rights have been scrupulously respected. In this point of view the movement is one in the highest degree creditable to the Japanese, and shows that, with all their restlessness and anxiety for change, they are still actuated by a profound desire to maintain the position and dignity of the Empire. In such a condition of affairs we can afford to sympathise with both sides. Each has, or thinks it has, wrongs to remedy, and they have decided to submit those wrongs to the only tribunal which seemed possible, that of arms. An insurrection which is not successful is, of course, after all only a rebellion, and as such must be put down with a strong hand. When, however, the arbitration of arms has decided against it, the circumstances which led up to it, and the actions of those who controlled it, may well be taken into account; and we may hope that the instincts of the Japanese will incline them on the one part not to persevere in a contest after success is plainly impossible, and on the other hand, that judicious leniency will be as much as possible exercised. Taken in connection with other insurrectionary movements, we may well praise the conduct of the Japanese. Had the Turks and Bulgarians determined to settle their quarrels on similar principles, we should not have heard much of the "Eastern Question." If the Chinese in similar difficulties, had observed the attitude of the Japanese, half the Empire would not now have had to lament the devastation of its soil and the destruction of its inhabitants. We need have had no tales of cruelty at Tali or Manas, nor need Yünnan and Shensi have been converted into uninhabited wilds.

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REVIEW.

Climate and Time in their Geological Relations. By James Croll. London, Daldy, Isbister and Co. 1875. Kelly and Walsh, Shanghai.

Imagine a vast oval, not very elliptical in form, that is to say not very different from a circle. Picture it as lying with its more or less pointed ends corresponding to your right hand and left. Imagine also a line drawn across this oval from end to end through the centre, and call this "the line of apsides." Fancy now the sun placed on this line a little to the right hand of the centre, and finally, fancy the earth starting from say the left hand extremity of the line and travelling along the oval towards you, up to the right hand extremity and thence along the curve from right to left until it reaches the point whence it started. This will fairly represent the earth's motion in its orbit round the sun, and from it follows the obvious conclusion that the earth is sometimes nearer the sun than it is at other times. The measure of the difference between a true circle and the actual figure of the earth's orbit is called the "eccentricity of the orbit." The earth is said to be in "perihelion" when it is nearest to the sun, and in "aphelion" when at its greatest distance.

Picture now the earth as a ball somewhat flattened at the poles, and imagine a line drawn through the poles and centre as a knitting needle might be driven through the central core of an orange. If, as an orange stands upright before us, a knife be drawn round its bulkiest part, it will leave a trace answering exactly to the earth's equator. Now the earth is not set as it were upright in its orbit; its axis instead of being perpendicular to the plane of the orbit, is inclined about one quarter of a right angle from that perpendicular, and therefore the plane of its equator is to the same extent inclined to the plane of the orbit. But as the earth pursues its course, its axis always remains parallel to the same direction, whence it follows that, supposing it to start from a point where the the north pole is inclined towards the sun, that pole will be inclined away from the sun six months later, the south pole being then inclined towards the sun in its turn. The hemisphere whose pole is inclined towards the sun enjoys summer, while the opposite hemisphere is winter-bound. It is evident that in passing from one of these conditions to the other, that is, twice in the course of the revolution, there will be a moment when the inclination of the axis will, as regards the sun, be indifferent; that is to say the axis will lie in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the orbit. At these two moments, which are called the spring and autumn "equinoxes," the northern and southern hemispheres are equally illuminated, while at the periods of greatest inclination of the poles towards the sun, the northern hemisphere in the one case, the southern in the other, receives the maximum amount of illumination, the opposite hemisphere contemporaneously receiving the minimum. These periods are called the summer and winter "solstices." A line drawn from either equinoctial point of the orbit through the sun will intersect the orbit at the opposite equinoctial point. Similarly a line drawn from either solstitial point through the sun, will cut the orbit at the opposite solstice, and will lie at right angles to the line of equinoxes.

Now, the earth's motion in its orbit is affected in various ways by the neighbourhood of other celestial bodies. Of these, periodic variations are allowed to be without influence on the subject of the present enquiry. There are, however, secular variations in the earth's motion through space produced also by solar, lunar and planetary interference; and of these, excluding changes in the obliquity of the earth's axis to the plane of the orbit, about the effects of which there is much doubt, two are of sufficient importance to claim a word of popular explanation. The first is a secular change in the eccentricity of the orbit by virtue of which the oval which the earth describes about the sun is at one time almost a circle, and then, gradually elongating, arrives after the lapse of many (from one to two hundred) thousand years at its maximum of ellipticity, whence by equally gradual steps it returns to its original shape—and so on. The second is known as the "precession of the equinoxes," and may thus be rendered intelligible. Remember first that the depths of space are so inconceivably distant that, in general, when any fixed star is selected as a point of reference, the widest change in the earth's position in its orbit makes no difference in the apparent position of the star. Assume now that at any spring equinox it was observed that the line joining the sun and earth, when produced to meet the celestial sphere, intersected it at a point, marked, suppose, by a recognisable star. In process of time it would be found that this star had apparently shifted from its place—that at all events it no longer marked the equinox, which would not occur until after the equinoctial point before determined had been passed. Regarding, however, the star as absolutely stationary, and the sun as fixed, the apparent motion may for our present purpose be explained by a rotatory displacement of the earth's orbit, not uniform, and from time to time retrograde, but, roughly speaking, in the direction of the earth's motion in it. The real cause would for its elucidation lead us deeply into physical astronomy, but the effect may be traced according to this suggestion on the figure which I supposed drawn when beginning this article. It so happens that at present that portion of the orbit at which the north pole is inclined away from the sun is at the least distance from the sun. But it is clear that eventually one of the effects of this displacement of the orbit will be to bring the same portion into the position farthest from the sun. In other words, and taking into consideration the rate of the change, what I have just written may be summed up thus—that whereas at present the winter of the northern hemisphere occurs in perihelion—11,700 years ago it occurred, and ten thousand years hence it will again occur in aphelion. Of so much it seems necessary to remind the reader in order to make what follows intelligible.

Astronomers have decided that whatever view be taken of the agencies whereby successive changes in the earth's crust have been and are being effected, the ultimate cause must be sought amongst cosmical conditions, including the secular variations just mentioned. How much ought to be attributed to each, and how much is directly due to any or all, are questions still agitated, but their discussion need not detain us, as we shall have to do with indirect effects only. The problem which geologists have had to solve is the mode of operation of the modifying forces; and their final general conclusion, arrived at upon independent grounds, is that those forces are and always have been mainly secular, not catastrophic, in their action. In other words, it is commonly agreed that to changes of "climate," in the widest sense of the word, are to be attributed the surface changes of the globe. The difficulty of realising the enormous results that may follow from apparently trivial causes operating through hundreds or thousands of years, prevents many from accepting the possibility of stupendous surface changes being due to winds, running streams, and such like everyday agents. The following illustration taken from Mr. Croll's book will help to remove this difficulty:—"Could we stand upon the edge of a gorge *a mile and a half in depth*, that had been cut out of the solid rock by a tiny stream scarcely visible at the bottom of this fearful abyss, and were we informed that this little streamlet was able to wear off annually only $\frac{1}{10}$ of an inch from its rocky bed, what would our conceptions be of the prodigious length of time that this stream must have taken to excavate the gorge? We should certainly feel startled when, on making the necessary calculations we found that the stream had performed this enormous amount of work in something less than a million of years." But even those physicists who reduce the history of the globe to the strictest limits of time, allow one hundred millions of years for the changes of which it has been the theatre. There can be no doubt that the variations of climate have been most startling. Thus, at a period so recent that from its close to the present day there has been no material alteration in the arrangement of continents, the present northern temperate zone was buried under ice, while during the Upper Miocene period a temperate climate with its appropriate fauna and flora extended at least to North Greenland. The last Polar expedition discovered coal deposits within 8° of the pole, in itself all sufficient evidence of the equably warm temperature which once prevailed in the Arctic regions. On mathematical grounds it has been proved that the internal heat of the earth could have had no influence in producing this state of things, (though Professor Heer, of Zurich, is still of a contrary opinion) while Lyell's celebrated hypothesis of the massing of land round the equator and poles to account for the prevalence of a high and a low temperature respectively, is found for many reasons untenable. In fact the great transparency of water to heat rays, and the mobility of its particles, render it comparatively easy to heat rapidly great masses of water to considerable depths. Not so, however, with land, which conveys heat into the depth of its substance by conduction only, and with remarkable slowness. On a review of all the phenomena, many prominent members of the modern school have agreed to refer the vast climatic changes just mentioned, with all their direct and indirect effects, to the action in varying degree and direction of ocean currents. Some faint idea of the amount of heat distribution effected by currents setting from the equator, may be derived from the following conclusions drawn by Mr. Croll, from calculations given at large in his book. Taking the Gulf stream alone, it conveys from the torrid zone, and mainly from the Southern ocean, as much heat per day as would be received during the same period from the sun by 1½ millions of square miles of land at the equator, or one-half as much heat as is received from the sun by the entire Arctic region. Were it and the North Pacific currents diverted into the Southern hemisphere, another glacial epoch would open upon the northern hemisphere; and, as a matter of fact, comparison of the Clyde and Canadian shell beds proves that during the glacial period the Gulf stream did not exist. Or, as a familiar illustration, were other conditions to remain unaltered, but ocean currents to be abolished, the mean temperature of London would at once fall from 50° F. to 10° F.

The question—what in turn causes ocean currents?—has been keenly debated. Maury attributes them to the continual disturbance and re-establishment of equilibrium between the differently heated portions of the oceanic mass in different regions of the globe. Carpenter rejects this theory, and speaks somewhat vaguely of a general set of polar water towards the equator and of equatorial water towards the poles. Mr. Croll shews that Maury's hypothesis is inconsistent with known physical laws, and objects to Carpenter's that were his theory exhaustively explanatory of the phenomena, the greater part of the equatorially heated water would find its way into the colder hemisphere, which is known not to be the case. Finally, the answer appears to be that ocean currents are due to the prevalence of winds setting in a particular

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direction. In order to meet any possible doubt as the enormous influence of aerial upon marine currents, it is sufficient to cite as an example of such influence the fact stated by Gibbon on Tournefort's authority, that whereas during a north wind no vessel can stem the current setting out of the Hellespont, a south wind renders that current almost imperceptible. But apart from mere illustrations, it is a fact that all the principal ocean currents are moving in the exact direction in which they ought to move, assuming the winds to be their sole impelling cause. It remains therefore to shew reason for secular variations in the direction of aerial currents. Mr. Croll's book is written with the object of referring these variations to the secular changes which affect the earth's orbit.

That the entire subject is one of surpassing interest, especially in connexion with the biological and even theological questions of the day, will not be denied by anybody. That the problem to solve is extremely intricate and capable of development into regions whither the ordinary reader could not follow, is only too obvious. It is Mr. Croll's great merit to have written in such a manner that to any person of ordinary school education his argument is intelligible, while at the same time he does not sacrifice exactitude to popularity. His own complete mastery of his subject enables him to present the most important aspects of the new theories supported by adequate arguments or authorities, but freed from the details which the mathematician or geologist could alone understand.

It follows from mathematical principles that, in general, increase of the eccentricity of the earth's orbit must increase the total amount of heat received by the earth in a revolution. But the obvious result of the highest degree of eccentricity is that the difference between the distances of the earth from the sun at the two vertices of its orbit reaches a maximum. Thus the heat received by the earth in perihelion would be to that received in aphelion as 26 to 19. Suppose that the winters of the northern hemisphere occur in perihelion. In this case the earth is so much nearer to the sun in winter than in summer that the difference between the seasons disappears, and the phenomena of the Upper Miocene period follows. Suppose, however, that the northern winters occur in aphelion. The northern hemisphere then receives in winter one fifth less heat than it does now; its winters are 36 days longer than its summers, and rain in the "temperate zone" is necessarily replaced by snow. These are the direct results. In addition, the masses of ice and snow accumulated in the colder hemisphere must still further reduce the temperature by radiation and by reflexion into space, while by condensation of atmospheric vapour into fog they largely diminish the amount of heat received from the sun. In general terms, then, an increase in the eccentricity cools the hemisphere whose winters occur in aphelion, and heats the hemisphere whose winters occur in perihelion. The prevailing winds from the former would therefore be stronger than those from the latter, and would by deflecting the equatorial ocean currents towards the warmer hemisphere in directions modified by the conformation of the land, help to exaggerate the difference between the two. And finally, while the lower stratum of cold air crosses the equator, driving the ocean currents into the warmer hemisphere, the upper stratum of hot air rushing vapour-laden into the cold hemisphere, deposits its vapour in the form of snow and thus adds to the glaciation.

We may assume, then, that under a combination of cosmical conditions such as we have been enumerating, periods of glaciation alternating with periods of warmth, would prevail over each hemisphere in turn. The geologic record, imperfect as it confessedly is, affords ample proof of the existence of ice ages in striated and polished rocks, strata of boulder clay, and the presence of erratic blocks whose position can be accounted for only by glacier action. Corresponding to the intervening warm periods, are found between strata of glacier formation deposits of coal which must have taken from six to ten thousand years for their growth and transformation. With regard to the migrations and distribution of fossil and existing animals and plants, observed facts are so remarkably explained by the theory, that reference must be made to the matter. As the changes are recurrent, we may begin at any stage in them to consider their progressive effects. During the glaciation of either hemisphere, the existence of a polar ice cap would slightly displace the centre of gravity of the earth, and thereby lower the level of the ocean, or in other words cause the emergence of land on the warm hemisphere. Thus, during the glaciation of the southern hemisphere, the North Sea was no doubt dry, and the British Islands united to the continent. There was nothing, therefore, to prevent the northern migration of tropical animals tempted to high latitudes by the prevalence of a high temperature. On the other hand, during the progressive glaciation of the northern hemisphere, arctic animals could travel southwards over the ice, and invade England yet again united to the continent, but this time by a wide but frozen sea. Wherever there is evidence of glaciation, there is also evidence of submergence on that hemisphere and emergence on the other. Thus may be explained the occurrence in Great Britain and on the continent of the fossil remains of animals which, where not extinct, are now confined to arctic or tropical regions. So with existing forms of life. Suppose at the close of such a period as the Upper Miocene, glaciation gradually invading the northern hemisphere. Arctic and temperate forms begin to travel southward to be driven back again as the cold diminishes. Some temperate and even arctic forms will however ascend the mountains in the torrid zone and will remain there. The same thing eventually occurs in the southern hemisphere. Antarctic forms of life come north, and in like manner are driven back, carrying with them some of the northern temperate forms with which they have mingled on the mountains of the torrid zone. It is thus that Darwin explains the fact that identical species of plants and animals are found in the northern and southern temperate zones and on the mountains of the intermediate tropical region.

This review has already reached such an inordinate length, that I dare not farther try the reader's patience. I will merely mention as one of the astronomical theories put forward to account for secular changes of climate, that of a slow motion of the earth itself in the direction of (suppose for simplicity) a meridian of longitude, the axis being supposed to remain invariable in direction. This would obviously have the effect of moving the (north) pole with its surrounding arctic conditions to regions that are now more or less near the equator. Mr. Kingsmill has lately adopted this theory as explanatory of various geological phenomena in Eastern and Central Asia; and Sir Wm. Thomson not only "admits it" but "asserts it as highly probable." For this reason notice of it is essential, but the reader must bear in mind that the results of astronomical investigations undertaken with the design of testing it, lie within the limit of unavoidable errors of observation. Finally, I would draw attention to Mr. Croll's chapters on the measure of geologic time and on the movement of glaciers, as replete with information of the most valuable kind.

R. A. Jamieson.

Outports.

NEWCHWANG.

We have had no skating, and what is worse no business. Our couriers have loitered or been wind-bound, and now, just as we are hoping that the first steamers will soon arrive, we learn that the regular steamer (S. S. N. Co.) will be in the hands of the natives. Sportsmen have been successful, however; no less than four Bustards having succumbed to the guns of two good shots. Bowling must not be forgotten, and it is some satisfaction to place on record that for the first time in the annals of this port, the highest possible score has been attained. This occurred on 1st March, when the successful bowler, our worthy fellow resident, Ritter L. von Fries placed the following totals to his already very high averages: 226, 215, 300, 201=942. Average, 235½ points.

Snow has fallen, much to the satisfaction of agriculturists, and the weather is not so intensely cold as it has been for the last three months. The river usually breaks up about St. Patrick's day, but as a rule the ice floats up and down with the tide till about 25th March, and we have known some years when it was not safe for wooden vessels to come into harbour before 1st April. This season looks like a late one.—News has reached us that some 35,000 of Li Hung-chang's Braves have rebelled and that the officers have been murdered. You will know before this whether it be so or not, and whether Li has laid his button at the foot of the Throne in consequence.

16th March.

As usual, St. Patrick's day did not leave the ice intact. The *Yehsin* came on the 18th, and the *Foochow* three days later; but even now there is a good lot of ice in the river, and natives don't like to float cargo-boats. *Sun Slick* is the first pilot boat launched, but marks have not been put down yet, of course. The lightship is in position.

23rd March.

Five vessels have arrived, the *Yelland*, *Gustav Adolph*, *Norelty*, *Carmelita and Ida*, and *Madagascar*. The *Yehsin* leaves to-day, with the fine freight which the first steamer always obtains. The *Foochow* will clear for Chefoo and Swatow to-morrow. The ice is still dangerous at times, for vessels not made of iron.

Our market, after a collapse which lasted the whole winter, has opened at last, and some sales of 8.7 Grey Shirtings have taken place at Tls. 1.40 @ Tls. 1.50; English Drills at Tls. 2.20 @ Tls. 2.25; Malwa, Tls. 440 @ Tls. 445. Export produce remains awfully dear, and freights will have to be low to make it worth while for shippers to operate.

The C.M.S.N. Co. have an office in the native city, and talk of doing a regular steamer business. The *Millet*, by some other name, many perhaps keep up the line, but it is to be hoped the other great steamer Companies will compete.—Mr. Gunther, our Harbour Master left by the *Yehsin*. It is the fashion to rub down any one leaving after a year or two service, and some get praise rather fulsomely; but one really cannot speak too highly of Mr. Gunther as an impartial and faithful servant both of the I. M. Customs and the public. The extension of the Bund will be a lasting monument to his skill and energy, and we hope his successor will continue the improvements so well begun.

28th March.

CHEFOO.

We have pleasure in printing the following letter from Mr. Jamieson, H.B.M.'s Acting Consul at Chefoo, regarding the disposal of the funds which have been

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received from Shanghai and other sources, for the relief of the famine-districts in Shantung :—

Chefoo, March 23rd.

MY DEAR DEAN,—Your letter of the 17th duly received. You and the other gentlemen in Shanghai, who have taken up this matter of relief so earnestly, will be interested to learn what we here are doing with the money, and it is only right that you should know. We have received from Shanghai altogether up to date in round numbers Tls. 9,000, add to which Tls. 500 collected in Chefoo, and about Tls. 500 from other sources (chiefly Kiukiang) giving a total fund of Tls. 10,000. Of this we have remitted the following sums :—To Chingchow-foo (where Mr. Richard and Dr. Nevius are at present) Tls. 2,360. To the Roman Catholic Bishop of Tsinan-foo Tls. 1,500. To the Rev. Mr. Crosette at Tsinanfoo Tls. 250, and to Mr. Corbett at Chimeh Tls. 300. We shall dispatch in a day or two Tls. 1,000 to the several Protestant missionaries at Tsinan-foo, making altogether Tls. 5,461 distributed, and leaving us in hand for future allotment about Tls. 4,500. All the gentlemen in the interior are supplied with funds for the present, and we must be guided by the latest advices, and by the amount of further remittances from the south in making further allotments. We feel it necessary, however, to keep in hand a considerable reserve for Mr. Richard, who has taken upon himself the responsibility of providing for over 400 orphan children. That responsibility will continue at least till the beginning of June, and till that time it will be necessary to keep on remitting to him about Tls. 500 a fortnight. We cannot expect your liberality to be perennial, though we trust it is not quite exhausted yet.

I may add that letters have just come in from Mr. Richard, and his hands are evidently full of work. He wants assistance now in managing his orphan establishments, and the Rev. Mr. Jones has started to his aid. Whatever else the result of foreigners' liberality may be, there is no doubt of this, that it has saved the lives of some hundreds of children, who otherwise would have died a lingering unheeded death ; and the thought of this will in itself, I am sure, be a sufficient reward for the sacrifices you have made.

Yours very truly,
G. JAMIESON.

Very Rev. Dean Butcher.

NINGPO.

We have a further account of the riot at Ningpo, which substantiates what we were able to publish last week, while giving some further particulars.

About 6 p.m., a Chinese ran to the Police Station, stating that there was a great row on the bridge, and that Antoine (the foreign toll collector) would be killed if assistance did not come. Mr. Golding (the Superintendent of Police) accordingly went down with a Chinese Constable and an Interpreter, and found a great crowd on the bridge and on the neighbouring ground. Having made his way to the collector's box, he saw a man lying covered with blood, on the counter. He wanted to take him away on a stretcher, to the doctor ; but the crowd would not allow it, and cried out to "kill the foreigners." They caught hold of the Interpreter, but a few respectable Chinese got near and called out that they (the Police) had nothing to do with the bridge ; and at the same time told Golding to get away as fast as he could. There was another cry of "kill, kill," and Golding was again told to go away, and deemed it wise to obey. He soon after met Colonel Cooke walking, with the mafoo leading his pony, and reported the circumstance. Colonel Cooke told him to return with him to the spot. They made their way to the collector's box, the crowd opening before them, and Colonel Cooke again tried to take the wounded man away to the doctor. A stretcher was called for and the man placed on it ; but just as four coolies were about to lift him, another cry of "kill the foreigners" arose. Cooke held up his hands and the people were quiet. He asked those near : What did the people want? He wanted to try to save the man's life. Some of them cried, "Let him stay till his friends come." Cooke replied "all right ;" but the crowd again began to sway and press, getting up the usual cry. Suddenly, a rumble was heard as of a body of men approaching, and the cry arose, "here they come, the soldiers are coming." Cooke at once told Golding and the Interpreter to go, as quick as they could ; the people opened, and a fresh crowd came down at a run. Cooke was swept back twenty yards, and then were renewed loud shouts of "kill, kill!" A lot of soldiers and others surrounded him saying, "We have you now," and one soldier caught him by his coat at the throat, and another behind, while a boatman seized his left arm. Fortunately, Colonel Cooke had with him a powerful dog, which he was holding by a handkerchief ; and judging things were become pretty serious, knocked down the man in front and slipped the dog, which sprang up with a roar ! that made the others fall back, and caused an opening through which Cooke slipped and escaped, followed by stones and yells of "kill," into Mr. Coit's compound. Shortly afterwards he was told the mafoo had found his way there, and ordered him to take the pony home, sending by him a note for some of his soldiers. The people knew the mafoo, and tried to get hold of the pony ; but he luckily happened to dislike handling, and commenced rearing and kicking so that no one could touch him or the mafoo, and they both got through. The message brought the soldiers, and when they arrived Colonel Cooke returned to the bridge, where H.B.M.'s Acting Consul had already arrived. At their appearance the people became quiet. Shortly after the Teetai and Chehsien came down, and they had the wounded man removed into Antoine's house, where Dr. Mackenzie visited him. He said there was a chance for him, but a doubtful one, as he had bled for so many hours ; the row having begun about 6.30, and it being now about 9. The official party remained on the spot till about 1.30. Antoine and seven Chinese employés of the Bridge Co. were arrested during the interval ; and this calmed the people, and probably prevented a more serious row.

The wounded man died the following day at 3 o'clock ; and up to the night of the 30th the military authorities would not allow him to be placed in a coffin, but had him carried to the Tartar parade ground, where the Teetai has a camp—a bad proceeding, as the view of the body is likely to excite the people.

There seems no doubt that the riot originated in the injudicious action of the toll-collector, Antoine. There had been a procession in the Kanpo (foreign Settlement) that day, and several theatres erected, causing a great influx of people. As usual, the bridge was doing its best to reap a great harvest, about sixteen Chinese being employed to collect *cash* from the passengers. Among the latter were a few soldiers who had had leave to visit their family graves, and were wearing their uniform. It is Chinese custom that all officials and men in uniform should pass free over bridges, ferries, or wherever toll is payable ; and that custom has been observed hitherto at the Bridge of Boats. One of the soldiers, however, seems not to have known of the custom, and tendered his 4 *cash*. Not content with what he might have regarded as a windfall, the toll-collector required that one (which was small or broken) should be changed ; and, when the man demurred, seized hold of him. Some pushing and pulling ensued, and when the other soldiers saw their comrade being pushed, they began pushing too. Antoine on this struck out, whereon the soldiers seized him and began dragging him across the bridge. The bridge coolies came to his rescue, and a free fight ensued between them and the soldiers, who were by this time reinforced by other arrivals. One of the soldiers got a terrible wound on the head in the melée ; and Antoine, who got free, had to run for his house.

What followed has been already described. What has yet to come, it is difficult to predict. It is needless to say the bridge is free up to this.—It would not be safe to attempt to collect *cash* just at present—and it is reported that the Chinese are determined that it shall remain free, or be removed.

From the fault of the management, the bridge has always been unpopular. It is generally understood that one of the conditions of its erection was that the proprietors should pay a fixed sum in compensation to the ferrymen who used to ply at the spot ; but that the agreement was never carried out. Then the Chinese wanted to buy the bridge in order to free it ; but such an outrageous price was demanded that it could not be entertained ; and the result of these things was that a free ferry was started alongside, which at once took away nine-tenths of the business. It remains to be seen what will be the end of the present trouble. The Chinese are said to be determined that either the toll or the bridge shall come to an end, this time ; and unless some understanding is come to, a further and worse row is quite among the possibilities.

30th March.

A section of the bridge was taken out yesterday, and all traffic stopped. No *cash* have been collected since the row. I think I mentioned in one of my previous letters that Antoine, the bridge toll-collector, is an Austrian subject. Mr. Haas came down yesterday from Shanghai, to look after him.

1st April.

WENCHOW.

A correspondent informs us that the revenue cruiser *Ling Feng*, with Mr. Commissioner Hobson on board, arrived in the river on the 2nd March and remained surveying until the 19th, on which date she started back to Foochow to bring up the rest of the Customs staff. Plenty of water was found on the bar, and all ordinary draught steamers will be able to proceed up river and anchor off the city.—Premises for a Custom house have been selected outside the North Gate, which faces the river and is opposite the best anchorage.—The city is very clean and well paved, but fails to strike as an emporium of trade. The principal hongs are outside the South Gate, and those engaged in the timber and charcoal trade seem to be doing all the "biz" at this present.—Tea will be obtainable bye and bye. Silk goods are manufactured to a slight extent, but manufacturers of household furniture, umbrellas, bamboo baskets, matting, and coffins employ most hands by far. Surely there never was such a city for joss houses, and but few are in decent repair.

The U.S.S. *Palos*, with Mr. Consul Lord on board, arrived from Ningpo on the 21st. Mr. Lord is reported to have selected a concession lot adjoining that measured over by Mr. Davenport. Junks are high and dry off this position at low water, but whether intending settlers will take any note of the fact remains to be told.

FOOCHOW.

The *Foochow Herald* gives particulars of the two fires mentioned in our correspondence by the last steamer, and the latter

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of which very seriously threatened the foreign Settlement. The organisation of a Fire Brigade is suggested.—The wreck of a small foreign built vessel, painted white, and supposed to be a pilot-boat, was seen off Turnabout Island on the 27th ultimo. During the recent trip of H.M.S. *Sheldrake* to the Haitan Straits, enquiries were made regarding this wreck; but without eliciting any satisfactory information.—A steam launch was nearly swamped on the night of the 20th, in trying to reach the str. *Douglas*, against a strong head-wind. Fortunately for those on board, the launch, although in a sinking condition, was just able to steam alongside a Chinese gunboat.—Mr. Skatschkoff, Consul-General for Russia in China and Japan, has just paid a flying visit to Foochow.

HONGKONG.

The *Daily Press* says the Chinese gunboat *Shen-chi* was to leave on the 22nd, to be present at the opening of the new port of Pak-hoi. She takes on board two Customs officers and a Chinese boat's crew. If she arrives before the 1st April, the port will be opened on that day; if not, it will not be opened until she arrives. The Canton officials have gone down already from Canton by the Chinese gunboat *Lingfeng*.—The *Mail* reports that a large meeting of Chinese merchants has been held to consider the bank-note question. The premium on these notes has again assumed such formidable dimensions that our "Celestial" friends state they find it seriously affects their business transactions. A resolution was passed at the meeting, to memorialise the Government on the subject, with the view of some means being established whereby the native traders may not have to bear these heavy losses. The evil lies in the difficulty of adjusting the scales at the various banks with those used by the Chinese merchants. The Chinese allege that the manipulation of the former by the native employés invariably tells against the person who pays silver in, but we suspect there is a difference in what the Chinese call "Yeung Ping" or foreign scale and what is known as the "Sz-ma Ping" or standard scale used by the native merchants.

The *Daily Press* learns that over four thousand dollars have already been subscribed by the Chinese merchants in the Colony in relief of the famishing people in the North. Much is due to the efforts of Bishop Burdon, who appealed to the Chinese community through the medium of the Chinese papers published here, on behalf of the poor sufferers. The money will shortly be forwarded to the manager of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company at Shanghai, to be remitted to Shantung.—According to the Australian papers, no decision has been come to in reference to the mail contract between the Queensland Government and the E. and A. Co. The Government refuse to increase the subsidy, and if the Company throw up the contract they may be found liable to a penalty not of £5,000 but £20,000.—The *China Mail* is glad to learn that Sir Brooke Robertson is slowly recovering from his late severe illness, and that more genial weather will in all probability restore him to health.—H.M.S. *Fly* was to proceed to Kiungchow on the 31st. She will run down to Pakhoi, with the new Consul (Mr. Harvey), who will be replaced at Hoihow by Mr. Bullock, from Canton—so that the new port will not be actually in trading form until the 2nd or 3rd April.

The property of the P. M. S. S. Co. on Praya West has been sold to Chinese for the sum of $206,000.—The Committee of the Tung Wah Hospital (in Hongkong) has held a meeting to consider what means can be taken for the relief of the famine in Shantung, and it has been resolved to open a subscription list amongst the Chinese for that purpose.—$1,200 have been subscribed in Canton, toward the Relief Fund.

MANILA.

Another fearful and destructive fire took place on the afternoon of the 21st ult., in the district of San José (Trozo), and reduced to ashes about 300 houses, among which were some fine and costly buildings. The fire continued for several hours, and what is more lamentable is that some lives were lost by the catastrophe. One of the papers, in describing the state of things at the scene of the fire, says that the fire was so powerful that only a deluge could have overpowered the "great column" of the devouring element.

COREA.

The *Mai-nichi-shimbun* writes:—It has been repeatedly mentioned in the native newspapers that owing to a great famine in Corea, many men and numbers of cattle have been starved to death. But the Corean Government did nothing to alleviate the distress of the poorer classes. They therefore became much excited, as they could not maintain themselves, and have risen in rebellion. Several persons wander about, condemning the action of the authorities. The town of Fusan is much disturbed in consequence.

NAGASAKI.

Among other matters in connection with the Satsuma rebellion, the *Rising Sun* gives the following:—The Imperial Commander-in-chief has reported to Sanjo, the Prime Minister, that "Every man of the Imperial troops fights well; some time ago there was a great deal of hand-to-hand fighting; the rebels would rush on with drawn swords, and the soldiers wait until they had come near and then shoot them down, and when they were so close that there was no more time for reloading, then the soldiers would bayonet them. The courage and skill of the Imperial troops is indeed admirable, and we safely rely upon their bravery. As soon as the wounded soldiers, who are in hospital at Fukuoka, recover a little, they immediately ask to be sent again to the fight. Indeed they are brave."—In connection with this, the *Cosmopolitan Press* says:—"It is positively wonderful to witness the stoicism of these men under suffering,—the American Indian could not display greater immobility of countenance than did the wounded men, some with their arms cut off by the sword, and suffering under bodily wounds; not a groan was heard from any of them, as they were being landed from the coal barges which brought them on shore, and those whose legs were not wounded, pluckily walked the wretched plank, the only accommodation there is for landing. The men looked as if they had done their work, and would do it again if they had the chance."—The *Sun* says three hundred wounded soldiers were landed in Nagasaki during the week ending the 31st ultimo. In anticipation of the arrival of a large number during the next few days, the Government were engaging nearly all the vacant Hotels and bungalows, and converting them into Hospitals.—The Dramatic Club of H.B.M.'s ironclad *Audacious* were to give a performance on the 4th proximo, the proceeds to be devoted to paying off the debt on the new Theatre.—A new native paper is about being published in Nagasaki under the auspices of Dosen Nishi, proprietor, and Masaki Obata, editor. The latter gentleman is an able writer, and was formerly editor of the *Saikai Shimbun*.

The *Press* says that Stotsbashi, the late Tycoon of Japan, is at last emerging from his seclusion of about nine years, and intends returning to Yedo. His intentions have not been ascertained, but as he has proved himself to be "a man in a thousand" by his disinterested and voluntary resignation of almost regal power, he cannot be suspected of wishing to interfere with anything that might affect the supremacy of the Mikado.

HIOGO.

The *News* says the wounded from the seat of war continue to come up in increasing numbers. Four hundred and fifty arrived in one day. The *News* hears that the proportion of sword wounds is, as before, extremely large, and that they are situated for the most part on the left arm and thigh.—Despite the falling through of the interport four-oared race, the committee of the Rowing and Athletic Club seem determined that the Spring sports shall not be interfered with thereby. It is arranged that a yacht race shall take place on the Queen's Birthday, which falls on a Thursday, and the Spring Regatta on the following Saturday. For the Athletic sports, a programme of seventeen events has been published.—The Kioto Exhibition was formally but quietly opened, in accordance with announcement, on the 15th ultimo. As has frequently on other occasions been the case, however, there appears to be as yet but very little to look at; not that this is a matter of much consequence, because few people who know Kioto want to go there in March.—A smart shock of earthquake was experienced just before 10 o'clock on the morning of the 17th, but it is not reported as having done any harm, and would probably not have been reported at all had it not been for the peculiarity of its not having been preceded or followed by any minor tremors.—On the 26th two shocks of earthquake, with an interval of about half an hour, occurred between three and four o'clock in the morning, at Hiogo.—The Chinese frigate *Hsin* arrived at Hiogo from Nagasaki early on the 19th ult., and saluted the Japanese ironclad ram *Adzuma-kean* when the flag went up. She is entirely officered and manned by Chinese and is in that respect somewhat of a novelty, and the men seen on shore from her are of really very fine physique.—H. B. M. despatch boat *Vigilant* arrived in harbor on the 26th, from Nagasaki.

YOKOHAMA.

The *Gazette* says a new Japanese trade dollar has been issued recently, a handsome coin, and of the full value which it represents—a coin admirably adapted to take the place here usurped by the Mexican as a medium of exchange, or at least to circulate side by side with it.—A meeting of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce was called for the 22nd ult., to consider a resolution "that it is desirable that there should be in this port a silver currency among foreign merchants which shall circulate in the interior of the country."—So few, however, attended, that the proceedings were adjourned *sine die*.—With reference to the question of opening up the country, there is another alleged instance of the contact of extremes. The Satsuma people who were most opposed to foreigners being allowed even a *pied-à-terre* in Japan, are now said to be those who are most keenly alive to the advantages to be derived from extended intercourse with them. It has been said on good authority that one of Saigo's demands is that many of the restrictions placed on foreigners shall be removed, and that they shall even be invited to employ their capital in the development of mining and other industries.—Toda, ex-daimio of Ogaki, Mino, who lately visited Kioto to pay his respects to the Mikado, had been, previous to that, doing good work in his old dominions. He assembled the most prominent men of his

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former retainers in a monastery, and exhorted them to do their utmost to preserve peace and order in the province. He distributed among them yen 10,000; and gave yen 5,000 to the agriculturists, and yen 3,000 for division among the inhabitants of the town of Ogaki.—Temperance entertainments have recently been successfully carried out in Yokohama. At the last held, a larger number of lady amateurs than the average assisted, and one or two gentlemen, who have kept themselves in the back ground of late, came to the front once more with some excellent songs. A number of seamen also gave recitations and readings.—About sixty steam vessels of the Mitsu Bishi Co., are now under the orders of the War Department. The *Heian-maru* is the only one which has not been taken up by the Government.—In its Nippon Notes, the *Gazette* says another man-of-war, to be called the *Iwakikwan*, is to be built at Yokoska.—It has been asserted that in some of the recent battles in the South, "in order to conceal the loss sustained, the wounded have been hastily thrown into a pit, without proper care being taken to see if life was extinct." About two hundred physicians in Osaka and its neighborhood were lately engaged in the Osaka garrison. One half of them will be sent to Kiushu, where they will serve as surgeons in the field; and the other half will remain in Osaka, whither many soldiers, more or less severely wounded, have been sent from the South-west for medical treatment.—A proof of Saigo's popularity, especially among the southern people, is cited by the *Hochi Shimbun*. Ikebe, a Kumamoto shizoku, and formerly a great friend of Saigo, after the insurrection broke out, collected a number of young men and harangued them to the effect that they should never join "the traitor." His audience became so angry that they hewed the orator in pieces.

The *Herald*, and also other papers, contain paragraphs urging help for the famine-stricken people in the north of China, and the appeal seems likely to be liberally responded to.—The *Herald* says the Government officials in Tokio are not by any means unanimous in their opinions about the state of affairs in Kagoshima, in fact the differences of opinion are becoming wider as the war is prolonged, and it is feared that an open breach will shortly take place between two or more of the factions.—The same paper says the Government is evidently resolved on prosecuting the manufacture of paper money with great spirit, for, in addition to the already large number of machines in busy activity in the Paper Money Department, the German firm of Konig & Baren has recently received an order for no less than thirty-four more machines, several of them for printing two colours. When all these shall have been set at work, there will be no scarcity of *satsu* in the country, and the gold coinage, Japanese trade dollar, and silver yen may be expected to disappear from circulation.—The Press laws have become so numerous and varied, that those officials whose duty it is to examine the papers with the view of discovering whether the laws have been infringed, are beginning to complain of the magnitude of their work. Each Japanese paper is nothing but a Government organ, and all their reports of victories, &c., may be liberally discounted.—Mr. Kikuchi, a Japanese student at St. John's College, Cambridge, has succeeded in the Mathematical Tripos in attaining the position of 19th Wrangler—The third Prince of the Fushimi-no-miya family, who was until lately a student in the War Department, has gone with Kuroda to the seat of war, where he will take command of a brigade, having been specially created a General for that purpose.—The opening parade of the Yokohama Rowing Club took place on the 22nd ult. Favored by beautiful weather and a smooth sea, a large number of the members assembled at the Boat-house. There was a procession of fours, and a scratch race back took place, in which the new boat from Hongkong gave great satisfaction. It is hoped a Regatta may be got up, worthy of the interest with which this Rowing Club has always been regarded.—The members of the racing world, says the *Herald*, have, as yet, made but little show. The hard frosts which, up to the present week, have prevailed, have rendered morning training a matter of some difficulty. It is hoped however that these impediments have now been got rid of, and that training for the Club races will commence in earnest.—The annual general meeting of the Yokohama Cricket Club was held on the 23rd ultimo. The accounts showed a balance to the Club's credit of $349.55\frac{1}{2}$, the receipts for the year amounting to $497.00 and the expenditure to $436.32\frac{1}{2}$. There still remains, however, a debt of some $400 due to subscribers to the turf fund. $25 had since been received from the Base Ball Club. The Hon. Secretary stated that he had been promised nearly $500 towards the proposed pavilion, that its cost was estimated at $600, and that he hoped shortly to obtain that sum. The old Committee having retired, the following were elected on the new Committee:—Messrs. H. Barlow, Dodds, M. Kirkwood, Milne and R. Robertson.

The *Tokio Times* says H. E. Tanaka Fujimaro has issued a notification that four hundred and twenty-five thousand yen will be allowed for the maintenance of primary schools for the year commencing next July. This is a movement in the right direction. In matters of education, retrenchment is not always economy, and judicious expenditure is the reverse of extravagance.—The same paper has an article or what it terms "The Assassination Frauds," in the course of which it says:—"Of the true origin of these documents (the alleged confessions) nothing is yet publicly known. They may be pure inventions and forgeries, or they may be authentic to the extent of having been actually signed, under compulsion of torture, by persons whose names are appended to them. That they are part of a feeble device to supply what shall appear as a pretext and a justification for the outbreak of Saigo's partisans, is as clear as any circumstance well can be, in the cloud of conspiracy and intrigue that now darkens the situation at the south."—The *Gazette* also has an article condemnatory of the allegation against the Government, of complicity in the contemplated assassination of the chief Satsuma officials.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

March 9th.—(1) A decree handing over to the Board of Punishments for trial, a sergeant of police belonging to the guard of the South Gate of Peking, who is accused of making a wrongful arrest and inflicting blows without authority, in a case in which an individual named Ts'ui Urh had met his death by drowning.

(2) Pao T'ing, an Imperial clansman, Libationer of the Imperial Academy of Learning, presents a humble expression of his views on certain public questions, which he introduces by observing that a householder keeps a dog in order that he may have the use of the animal's barking. A good dog will give voice at sight of a shadow. This may well cause annoyance to be felt; but the intention with which the watchdog utters it is no other than that of guarding his master's interest. Although the dog may not be always in the right, yet, by sounding the note of alarm, he serves to provide a defence against harm. It would not be well, therefore, to restrain the dog from barking in consequence of the frequency and groundlessness of his alarms. The memorialist himself has offered many representations to the Throne; and conscious as he is of his own foolishness and lack of insight, he nevertheless cannot restrain himself, overwhelmed as he has been with the Imperial bounty, from giving utterance to his views on four subjects, entreating the pardon of the Celestial grace for his offence in obtruding his opinions. (The four recommendations which ensue were fully summarized in the rescript issued in reply; see *Gazette* of Feb. 22nd.)

In a postscript memorial, Pao T'ing refers to the prohibition issued by proclamation of the office of Gendarmerie against illuminations at at the Lantern Feast on the 15th of the 1st moon, which the public are bound scrupulously to obey. Notwithstanding this a rumour is spread abroad to the effect that a great illumination is about to be held within the Palace, and that a vast number of lanterns have been manufactured for the purpose. At such a time as the present, when the exchequer is in straits, when their Majesties the Empresses set a personal example of frugality, and when his Majesty the Emperor, still of tender age, is diligently applying himself to study, it is inconceivable that an enormous outlay should be indulged in, for the construction of mere idle playthings. The vague rumours of the wells and market-places are, it is true, in no wise to be relied upon; but a public report usually has some kind of foundation, and it is to be apprehended that some of the Imperial attendants may have devised an exhibition of this nature with a view to advance themselves in favour. The memorialist earnestly deprecates the possibility of such an occurrence, and ventures to recall to mind the historical episode in which the emperor Shên Tsung, of the Sung dynasty, when about to purchase lanterns from Chehkiang, desisted at the remonstrance of Su She from this undertaking. Widely inferior as the memorialist knows himself to be in comparison with Su She, their Majesties the Empresses, on the other hand, far excel in their sacred wisdom the examples of former ages; and he trusts, therefore, that his humble representations may receive a gracious hearing. For rescript see *Gazette* of 22nd Feb.

March 10th.—A Decree. Let the Board of Revenue take into consideration and report to us upon the memorial presented by the Supervising Censor Kwoh T'sung-kü upon the state of affairs connected with the *lekin* in Szech'wan and the salt revenue of the eastern seaboard division.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with reports on unimportant administrative details in Yünnan, Kweichow, Kwangsi, and Tibet.

March 11th and 12th.—No documents of importance.

March 13th.—Memorials reporting the number of octogenarian and nonagenarian candidates who were granted honorary degrees at the various provincial examinations for the *kü-jên* degree last autumn, as follows:—

Of the age of 80 and upwards: In Kwangsi, two; in Kansuh, two; in Yünnan, two; in Shensi, seven; in Hunan, fifteen.

Of the age of 90 and upwards: In Hunan, three; in Sze-ch'wan, four; in Shensi, three.

March 14th.—(1) A Decree. Let Chi Ho 志和 succeed to the post of Commissioner of the Court of Transmission.

(2) A decree in reply to a memorial from Fêng Tsze-ts'ai, the General-in-chief in Kwangsi, who complains that in the Archives of the Suppression of the Taiping Rebellion, lately issued by command, he finds it mentioned that he "submitted himself to rightful authority at the same time with the rebel leader Hwang Kin-sze." The fact, he states, is simply that he was made prisoner by the insurgents in 1853, and kept in detention by them for something over ten days, at the end of which time he effected his escape, whereupon he enlisted as a volunteer with the military forces. There is no truth in the story that

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he was long connected with the rebels, and came over from them at the head of a body of his followers. The statement to which he draws attention is at variance with the tenour of other memorials printed in the same collection, and he begs that it may be corrected. The rescript in reply observes that Fêng Tsze-ts'ai has long been regarded with affection and honoured with distinguished rewards for his meritorious services; and what is due from him is that he should exert all his efforts in token of the gratitude which he owes. The fact of his having fallen into the hands of the rebels and immediately thereafter come out from among them to do military service was heretofore duly reported by the Governor then in office, and the fact was publicly noted in a Decree issued by his Majesty the Emperor Wên Tsung Hien (Hien Fêng.) Inasmuch as the Archives of the Rebellion have been issued with the approval of his late Majesty, the Emperor Muh Tsung I (T'ung Che), it is out of the question that any alteration of the text should be hazarded. The request preferred is not acceded to.

March 15th.—(1) A decree based on a memorial from the Censor Li Kwei-lin, who has represented that the candidates coming to Peking for the examinations are liable to be stopped by the Customs' officers at the gates, and has requested that the proper authorities be commanded to forbid the practice of extortion. On the arrival of candidates at the gates of Peking, they are as a matter of course liable to an investigation if they are in possession of smuggled merchandize; but if they have nothing with them beyond their personal effects, they should be allowed to pass after examination without being subjected to delay or annoyance. It may be feared, however, that when carts are about to enter the gates, the searchers on duty may perhaps deliberately obstruct their passage, in order to have an excuse for levying exactions upon them, and also that, on reaching the examiner's office, they may be kept waiting for inspection, being thus subjected to one delay after another. The Superintendency of the Customs of Peking is now stringently commanded to require all the subordinate employés of the department to give passage without delay, and also to inflict severe punishment upon any individuals who may be found guilty of acts of extortion.

(2) The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes reporting the number of honorary degrees awarded at the recent examinations as follows, viz., to candidates of the age of ninety and upwards, two; and seven to candidates of the age of eighty and upwards.

March 16th.—(1) The Governor-General of Kansuh, &c., memorializes requesting leave on behalf of the Judicial Commissioner of the Province, Ch'êng Ting-k'ang, to resign his appointment on the ground of ill-health.—See *Gazette* of Feb. 28th.

(2) The Governor of Kwei-chow forwards a voluminous report of the trial held in a case in which an expectant district Magistrate had been swindled by certain other officials, notably a lieutenant-colonel named Chow Fei-hiung, under the pretext of obtaining an appointment for him by underhand contrivances. The expectant Magistrate was induced to place in the hands of his officious friends a promissory note for Taels 2,400, which was issued on his behalf by a friend of his, keeper of an outfitter's shop; but he was put off with one delay after another, and his appointment never made its appearance. A part of the amount represented in the promissory note, viz., Tls 1,700, was drawn and appropriated by the confederates; and the matter having at length reached the ears of the provincial authorities, orders were issued for the arrest of all the parties. Upon this they came forward voluntarily to give themselves up; and they have been stripped of their respective ranks and sentenced to various penalties according to law.

March 17th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Sung Lin, who has presented a statement of his views regarding the cultivation of waste lands, the prohibition of clan-fighting, attention to the duty of reporting on the character of officials, and improvement in military discipline. The importance of all these subjects is recognized, and the attention of the provincial authorities is called to the representations now made.

(2) A decree calling upon the provincial government of Shantung to forward without delay an amount of Tls. 40,000 and odd, being the arrears of interest on certain funds appertaining to the Board of Works, for which the Salt Department of that province is responsible.

March 18th.—(1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from the Director General of the Grain Transport, who has requested the bestowal of memorial boards, and the grant of an additional title, in honour of the Gods of the Yellow River and its tributaries, including the canonized spirit of Lih Yü-mei, now designated Lih Ta Wang. These tokens of the Imperial gratitude for the protection accorded to the river and canal works during the past autumn are respectively accorded, the Board of Ceremonies being commanded to report upon the title that should be granted in the case of Lih Ta Wang.

(2) The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes reporting the successful attack upon and capture of a stronghold of coast pirates in the T'ai-chow prefecture, by a detachment of the provincial forces, in September last. The pirates were led by a Cantonese, and had fortified themselves so strongly as to believe themselves capable of setting the authorities completely at defiance.

March 19th.—The Censor Wang Hin memorializes that severe punishment be inflicted upon the high authorities of the province of Chehkiang, for their misconduct in connection with the trial of the wife of Koh P'in-lien for the alleged murder of her husband. Referring to the decree published on the 28th February, in which the report of the Board of Punishments on its enquiry into the case is commented upon, the Censor gives utterance to the surprise with which he is filled at the duplicity, partiality, and disregard for the interests of justice which have been manifested by the authorities through whose hands the trial has proceeded. As regards the District Magistrate, Liu Si-tung, who has involved an innocent woman in a network of misrepresentation, proving her guilty of causing the death of a person who in reality died from natural causes, and forcing her to confess a crime the penalty for which is execution in its most dreadful form, the guilt with which he is laden admits, plainly, of no exculpation. What the Censor finds more difficult to comprehend, is that men filling such high offices of State as the Provincial Governor, Yang Ch'ang-sun, and the Literary Chancellor, Hu Jui-lan, should have consented to become his abettors as they have done. When commanded to undertake a rehearing of the case, not only did Hu Jui-lan devote all his efforts towards extorting a confession, shewing himself fearful only lest the previous judgment should be disturbed, but in his successive memorials to the Throne he actually ventured to express himself in terms of irritation, shewing himself stubborn and self-opinionated to the end. The Governor Yang Ch'ang-sün, again, when ordered by decree to send up the parties to the case for further trial at Peking, openly signified his disapproval, and on the plea of the necessity for supplying the evidence of all the parties, sent up a crowd of prisoners, with no other result than that of causing widespread inconvenience. What he plainly intimated was that the Board of Punishments had no right to apply for the removal of the venue to Peking, and that his Majesty should not have acceded to the request when made. That Hu Jui-lan and Yang Ch'ang-sün should have ventured to act as they have done, the memorialist can only account for on the ground of the Government being in the hands of their Majesties the Empresses as Regents, the Emperor having acceded to the Throne while yet of tender age, and not as yet having reached the period for assuming the control of affairs in person. The flagrant audacity they have shewn in contempt for the law and in deceit toward their sovereign can only be ascribed to such a cause. This being the character of their offence, it is impossible to suppose that their punishment can be based upon mere ordinary rules, such as apply in cases of undue severity, whether wilful or due to oversight alone, and in which execution of the individual whose trial is in question may or may not have taken place. The memorialist reflects that there has not been a single instance, of late years, of an appeal to Peking resulting in a simple reversal of the judgment of a Court below; the Governors-General and Governors, although well aware that injustice has been done, simply closing the case with a report to the Throne that "a groundless appeal has been lodged under mistaken impressions." Moreover, when Imperial Commissioners are seen to be despatched on special missions of enquiry, they constantly explain points of serious importance to be mere trifles, and then proceed to refine away these trifles into absolute nonentity. These long standing practices of wrongdoing from interested motives have grown to be an unalterable routine. The only exception to be noted is the case of the [outrages] at Tung-hiang, in Sze-ch'wan, in which the acting Governor-General, after denying the culpability of the accused officials in the first place, subsequently came forward to make confession spontaneously (see *Gazette* of Jan. 4); and had not the present case already occurred, there can be little doubt that fraud and misrepresentation would have been clung to [in the Sze-ch'wan affair] to the end. The memorialist feels bound to urge that rigorous punishment be denounced by public decree upon the two high officials whom he inculpates.—A rescript postponing further decision until after receipt of the Board of Punishment's final report, has already appeared.

March 20th.—A decree, on receipt of a memorial from the Vice-Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, Wang Kia-pih, who has represented that the Metropolitan temple in memory of faithful public servants is in need of repair, directing the Boards concerned to consider and report upon the matter.

Public Meetings.

CHINKIANG LANDRENTERS' MEETING.

MINUTES of the adjourned annual general meeting of Landrenters in the British Concession, Chinkiang, held at H.B.M.'s Consulate on the 23rd March, 1877.

Present:—Messrs. H. B. Bristow, in charge of H.B.M.'s Consulate (in the chair), J. G. Gearing, M. Wolff, E. Starkey, (members of the Municipal Council), W. Bean and J. McL. Brown.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

The CHAIRMAN stated that this meeting was an adjournment of the meeting held on the 23rd January, and was called for the purpose of laying before the Landrenters estimates for repairing the western portion of the Bund. The Council had in the meantime endeavoured to get the necessary tenders from contractors both here and at Shanghai, but owing to the intervention of the Chinese new year holidays and to other

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causes they had but now received any definite estimates. Through Mr. Kingsmill they had obtained the following tenders for a thorough renewal of the Bund-facing, as shewn in his plans, viz.:—

From Tsao Sai T'ang Sh:..... Tls. 3,600
„ Shih Jen Kee ..... „ 4,000

As, however, it was only during one month more that the water would be sufficiently low to admit of the bunding works being carried on, whereas four months would be required for their completion, the contractors proposed driving some light piles and putting down stone in front of the damaged portions of the Bund to protect it until the water again falls in the autumn, when the entire facing can be finished.

After some discussion, Mr. Bean proposed, and Mr. Gearing seconded—

That the plan for repairs submitted be accepted; and that Mr. Kingsmill be requested on behalf of the Council to settle with the contractor whose tender seemed the most favourable; and that the temporary work for protecting the Bund-facing be proceeded with as soon as possible.

The proposition was carried.

The Council laid their statement of estimated receipts and expenditure for the current year before the meeting, as follows:—

Receipts.

	Ch. Tls.
Balance in Treasurer's Hand from 1876	202 38
Taotai's Contribution, Bund Repairs 1875-1876	400 00
China Navigation Company's Hulk	5 00
Pawn Shops	500 00
Assessment on House Rentals, Ch. Tls. 12,8[illegible] at 5 per cent.	640 00
Ch. Tls.	2,248 38

Disbursements and Estimated Expenditure.

	Ch. Tls.
Balance due for Bund Repairs	357 54
Freight on Rifle from Hongkong	15 00
Police Wages	120 00
Contingencies	5 00
Interest on Debenture Loan, 1876	300 00
Balance	1,337 19
Ch. Tls.	2,248 38

The Balance of Chinkiang Taels 1,337.19 was thus available towards paying for the contemplated Bund repairs; and the Council would suggest that, as this sum appeared amply sufficient for an instalment to the contractor for these repairs, the Balance requisite to complete the Bund-facing be left to the Council of 1878 to collect.

Mr. Gearing proposed, and Mr. Wolff seconded—

That a tax be levied on buildings within the Concession at the rate of 5 % on rentals as assessed last year. Such tax to be collected from the tenants or occupiers of houses and godowns at this date; or, if the premises be unoccupied, from the owners of the land.

Carried.

Mr. McLeavy Brown proposed, and Mr. W. Bean seconded—

That owners or representatives of all vacant lots on the British Concession be requested to enclose them with a substantial fence. This measure would greatly facilitate the Municipal police in the execution of their duties, and the nuisances now complained of would be effectually checked.

Carried.

Mr. W. Bean proposed, and Mr. Gearing seconded—

That a representation be made to H.B.M.'s Minister with a view to allowing Chinese to own land and rent buildings on the British Concession, on the same conditions as subjects of Treaty powers; their bond being taken to abide by the orders of H.B.M.'s Consul, the Municipal Council, and the Land Regulations.

Carried.

Mr. Wolff proposed, and Mr. Starkey seconded.

That the Wharfage Dues scheme, as presented to Sir Thomas Wade, being of vital importance to the well-being of the foreign Settlement at this port, the Council be empowered to treat with the various parties concerned in the scheme with a view to taking such measures as they shall think advisable for attaining the object desired.

Carried.

Mr. Bean proposed, and Mr. McL. Brown seconded—

That the Municipal Council be authorized to expend a sum, not exceeding Chinkiang Taels 200, for the purpose of making the proposed new road connecting the South limit of the British Concession with the Nanking road.

Carried.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

* The addition of these figures does not correspond with the totals given.

THE SHANGHAI CRICKET CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the members of the S. C. C. was held on the 28th ult., at the Shanghai Club. Present—Messrs. St. Croix (in the chair), Holliday, Forbes, Sir Wm. Johnston, Caldbeck (Secretary), members of the Committee; Mowat, Burrows, Grose, Starkey, Groom, Moberly, Hickling, Percival, G. de St. Croix, Smith, Layton, and Hearn.

The Chairman said the first thing to lay before the meeting was the statement of accounts, which he was glad to say was very satisfactory, and showed a balance brought down to credit of Tls. 200.39. If any member wished any item explained, he would be glad to give the necessary information.

The statement of accounts was as follows:—

Expenditure.

Dr.	Tls.
To Akew's Contract	500.00
„ Repairs, Washing, Watchman	139.44
„ Gear Account	159.14
„ Advertising, Printing	27.45
„ Entertainment Account	295.75
„ Insurance Account	15.00
„ Paid Recreation Fund	150.00
„ Sundries	29.96
„ Balance in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	200.39
Taels	1,575.13

Receipts.

Cr.			Tls.
By Subscriptions—Playing Members	.... Tls. 825		
„ do. Honorary	do. .... „ 180		
„ do. New	do. .... „ 225		
			1,230.00
„ Rent of Lockers			27.00
„ Ground Expenses			52.00
„ Gear Account, sale of bats and balls			44.40
„ Entertainment Account			177.17
„ Interest Account			2.63
„ Balance on 31st March, 1876			41.37
Tae s			1,575 13
By Balance		Taels	200.39

Mr. St. Croix then proposed—

That the accounts be passed.

Mr. Forbes seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The Estimated Income and Expenditure for this season was laid before the meeting, and approved of.

A Member remarked that he could not understand why the Club should pay rent at all to the Recreation Fund, seeing that the origin of the Recreation Fund was from the old Cricket Ground.

The Chairman, after some discussion on the subject, asked if the member wished to put a resolution to the meeting regarding it?

The Member said he did not, but thought it advisable to bring the matter to the notice of the meeting. He wished to leave it for the Committee to deal with.

The Chairman said they had now to explain their position with the Recreation Fund, respecting the debt owing by the S. C. C. for rent that had fallen in arrear. The Committee had, at different periods since the last meeting, written to the Recreation Fund Trustees, asking them to lower the rent of the ground and to come to an arrangement about the debt. The lease of the S. C. C. had expired on the 31st December last, and it was for the Committee to decide what course to adopt, subject to the approval of the members. He was glad to say that they had come to an arrangement with the Recreation Fund, which he thought satisfactory, and which he would now explain to the members and ask them to confirm their action. It was as follows:—The debt for rent due the Recreation Fund to the 31st December, amounted to Tls. 1,050, and this had been converted into a loan of Tls. 1,000 by the Recreation Fund. The Club had paid the Recreation Fund Tls. 165, which included the odd amount of Tls. 50 and interest, &c., and this squaring the accounts to 31st December, started on the 1st January with a loan of Tls. 1,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum, and paying the old rent of Tls. 300 per annum. They had renewed the rent of the ground on these conditions for a period of one year from the 1st January to 31st December, making in all a total payment to the Recreation Fund of Tls. 350 per annum, due on or before the latter date.

Mr. Percival proposed—

That the action of the Committee, with regard to the arrangements entered into by them with the Trustees of the Recreation Fund as explained by the Chairman, be confirmed.

Mr. Starkey seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman stated that 11 matches had been played during the season, four of which were against H.B.M.'s Navy, and he was sorry to say the Club had been defeated in two of them. The officers of H.B.M.'s Detached Squadron had very kindly presented a Silver Cup to the Club, for the best average bat of this season, which had been won (he was not sorry to say) by himself, with an average of 28.2—(Hear, hear.)

The next business was the election of a Committee for the ensuing year, the Chairman announcing that, with the exception of Mr. Caldbeck, all the old members were willing to serve again.

The ballot resulted in the election of Messrs. Bell, St. Croix, Manson, Holliday, Sir Wm. Johnson, Forbes, and Starkey.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and Committee brought the meeting to a close.

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESSES TO THE REV. J. THOMAS.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Temperance Society, generally held on Saturdays, took place on the 28th ult., to afford an opportunity to present an Address to the Rev. J. Thomas, the Vice-president, on the occasion of his departure to England. An attractive and varied programme of songs, recitations, and readings was presented; and several of the items given were of a higher order than usual, notably the singing of Dr. McCarthey, the solo on the flute by Mr Loam with pianoforte accompaniment, the reading by Mr. R. W. Little, the violoncello playing by Dr. Zacharie, and the recitation and reading by Mr. Sillifant.

At the close of the programme, Mr. Blethen, the President of the Society, who was in the chair, said those present were all aware that the main object in holding their entertainment that evening, and not on Saturday, was to present an address to the Rev. James Thomas, one of the principal and oldest officers of the Society, who would take his departure for England on Friday morning. He had now much pleasure in calling upon Mr. Gordon, the Honorary Secretary, to read the Address, which had been prepared for the occasion.

The Honorary Secretary then read the Address which was as follows:—

Shanghai Temperance Society.
Shanghai, 28th March, 1877.

To the
Rev. James Thomas.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—We feel that we cannot allow the relations that have so long existed between us to terminate without offering you some expression of our sense of your valuable and signal services to this Institution, as well as of our high regard for

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your personal character. You have been connected with the Shanghai Temperance Society since 1872, and you have displayed a warm and unwavering interest in its welfare from that date until now. The beginning of the movement was small, and many difficulties had to be overcome in the early days. At the time when energy and trust were most needed, you gave us an example of both, and to that example the cause of Temperance is largely indebted. But besides this, you have done all that lay in your power to extend the benefits and to enlarge the influence of this Institution, and to make it "a channel of blessings spiritual, social, and intellectual" to the whole community. You have laboured to found and to increase its library. You have contributed by lectures and readings to the success of its fortnightly gatherings, and by fostering the seeds of spiritual good sown at its prayer meetings, you have conferred an inestimable benefit on many who would otherwise have been strangers to the gospel message in its persuasive and personal application. At our committee meetings we shall miss your wise counsel and steady support of useful measures, and above all we shall feel the loss of the elevated tone which your own high standard of religious attainment has imparted to all our business.

It is not for us to dispute the wisdom of the decision which takes you away from the field in which you have laboured so long and so earnestly, as we are assured your resolution to depart was not formed without deep thought and reverent supplication for spiritual guidance. Still we cannot help feeling that not only the Shanghai Temperance Society but the Church with which you were connected, and all the charitable and religious societies grouped round it will incur a heavy loss when you leave us.

It remains, however, for us to ask the great and wise God, who preserves the going out and the coming in of His servants, to lead you into paths of yet wider usefulness, and to enrich you with all spiritual blessings in Christ. Accept a hearty God-Speed for yourself and family, and all good wishes for a prosperous homeward voyage,

From your Affectionate Friends.

The Chairman then rose and said the duty of presenting the Address had been assigned to him, and for himself and co-workers in the Society, and for all those who had attended its meetings or been interested in its progress, he could confidently say that in losing the Rev. Mr. Thomas they were losing one whose place could not be filled. They would miss him as one who, from the beginning of the work, had been a mainstay and strong supporter of it. In his earnestness, zeal and perservance, they often found encouragement and help when the cause was flagging, and the part he had taken would be long highly appreciated by all the members. In him they had always found a strong helper, a friend and brother in the cause of Temperance, a manly Christian, who, like the Good Samaritan, would stop and help a fallen fellowman and be a neighbour to him. Their hearts would rejoice to hear of his well-being and well-doing wherever his lot might be cast; and wishing health, happiness, and every blessing to himself and family, he, for himself and the Society, wished him a hearty and sincere good-bye.

The Rev. J. Thomas, in acknowledging the address, said—Mr. President, Gentlemen of the Committee of the Shanghai Temperance Society and all the members of the Society, and Ladies and Gentlemen now present.—It is utterly impossible for me adequately to thank you. To attempt to make a speech is entirely out of the question. I think you will understand me when I say this week has been a very busy and trying one to me; and on this day, above all others of my life, there has been the strongest strain on my sensibility. You will, therefore, I am sure, excuse my attempting to make a speech now. I must say, however, that I receive with great gratitude the address you have just given me, but I could not possibly be vain enough to think that my connection with the Shanghai Temperance Society has, in any measure, been what you have been kind enough to consider it. There is one phrase in the Address for which I am most thankful, because it most adequately represents the principles I hold, and most adequately pourtrays the reason why I am a teetotaller. I am a teetotaller as a religious man, I am a teetotaller from religious convictions; and as long as I live, whether my life be long or short, I hope ever to abstain wholly from that which is a stumbling block to so many, and from that which has resulted in the overthrow of greater numbers than we can count. But sir and dear friends, I do with all my heart thank you for this address. I shall prize it throughout my life; and be assured some of the happiest recollections of my Shanghai life will be associated with the Shanghai Temperance Society. I know you can understand that there are others like myself who have taken a prominent part in the working of this institution, who may be compared to certain parts of say such an instrument as a clock. It is not the instrument that does the talking, it is not the hammer that strikes the bell that is the most useful part of the instrument itself; and there is not one in connection with this Temperance Society who has not been as important to its harmonious and successful working and as essential to its continuation and prosperity as those who like myself have appeared upon this platform. This Society has my warmest and heartiest sympathies; and I rejoice to-night exceedingly in the change that has been brought about in it. Allusion is made in the address to the very small and struggling institution it was but a short time ago. I rejoice to think that that stage of it has passed; it can never relapse into the condition of a struggling Society again. I rejoice that it is now doing a work here we cannot measure; I rejoice that it is one of the most successful institutions of the Settlement; I rejoice that it is spreading its fruit through all the community and drinking in nourishment from all who reside in this place—it is so firmly fixed and exercising such an influence that it can never again decline in popularity and usefulness. To every member of the Committee, to you, Sir, as the President of this institution, and to all of you dear friends, I desire to tender my best and heartfelt thanks once more; and it now remains only for me to say that I bid you all an affectionate farewell, assuring you, if such a thing is necessary, that I shall never forget the Shanghai Temperance Society, and never cease to be interested in its usefulness and prosperity.

A closing chorus to the tune of Auld Lang Syne was then sung, and the proceedings terminated.

Prior to the gathering at the Temperance Hall, about one hundred members and friends of the congregation of Union Chapel, where the Rev. Mr. Thomas has ministered for nine years, assembled to present him with an address and cheque for Tls. 1,000.

The address spoke in highly flattering terms of the missionary actions of the Rev. Mr. Thomas, and also of the prominent part he had taken in the formation and the interest he had shown in various public institutions of a scientific, literary, and philanthropic character.

The presentation was made by the Rev. Dr. Yates, and appropriately acknowledged by the recipient, who then took a personal farewell of each person present.

Municipal Council.

At the Meeting of the Council, held in the Council Room, 17, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Monday, the 26th instant, at 9.30 a.m.

Present:—Messrs. J. Hart (chairman), G. J. W. Cowie, P. G. Hübbe, E. H. Lavers, E. G. Low, J. Bell Irving, A. McLeod, J. F. Seaman, C. W. Siegfried, and the Secretary.

The Minutes of the previous meeting are read, confirmed, and signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and passed for publication.

Cash Statement, for week ending 24th instant, is submitted for inspection, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Sinking Fund.—It is decided to renew the deposit in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for Tls. 7,509.15 with interest accrued, and to deposit a further sum of Tls. 3,000 for one year.

Road Material.—Ten tenders for supply of granite chips are considered, and that of Messrs. Yahkee and Co. selected.

Berthing steamers opposite Bund.—Council order a report by Acting Surveyor, shewing how far into the stream it would be necessary to extend the pontoons in front of the Bund to permit of ocean steamers berthing alongside.

Foreshore.—S.S. "Paokong" berthing at Messrs. Fogg & Co.'s Pontoon.—Application of Messrs. Walker and Co. to be permitted to berth S.S. *Paokong* alongside Messrs. Fogg and Co.'s pontoon, is granted, on the the understanding that the permit is not a general one.

Holidays.—The Municipal offices are ordered to be closed on 30th and 31st March, Good Friday and Saturday following.

Miscellaneous.

Circular by the Inspector-General of Customs regarding reported loans.

Inspectorate-General of Customs,
Peking, 16th March, 1877.

Sir,

1.—Having had occasion to make enquiry as to the truth of the statements now current concerning loans negotiated at Shanghai,—more especially a loan of Tls. 2,500,000 said to have been arranged with Japan, a loan of Tls. 4,000,000 proposed to be arranged with Japan and various separate loans for the Fuhkien, Yünnan and Hupeh provinces,—I was informed in reply that, as far as the Chinese Government is concerned, there is no reason why such rumours should be current, inasmuch as there is now no Imperial authority in anyone's hands to take any steps towards raising any loan. The Tls. 2,500,000, or Japan loan, has neither received the authorization of the Central Government nor been called for by the provincial authorities for whom it is said to be intended, and nothing is known of the Tls 4,000,000 loan or the other loan referred to.

2.—I am to bring all this to your knowledge, and I am to repeat the instructions formerly sent to you: you are not to sign any documents connected with loans except after written instructions from myself; and, in the absence of written instructions from myself, no loan is to be regarded as being for the Chinese Government, or as being with any kind of Governmental recognition or permission or guarantee, for Chinese officials.

3.—I am further specially to warn you against a certain Hsü Tao-t'ai, and to state that he has no authority to negotiate any kind of loan for any official purpose. I enclose a copy of a despatch from the Yamên having special reference to the said Hsü.

4.—You will please to hand a copy of this circular to the manager of each foreign bank at your port for his information, with my compliments, and you may allow it to be perused by any one connected with firms likely to be applied to for information, etc., respecting loans.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Robert Hart,
Inspector-General.

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Law Reports.

POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, March 27th.

Before R. A. Mowat, Esq.

Sing-Zee *v.* H. Cameron.

Assault.

Defendant, who is part owner of the pilot-boat *Daniel Webster*, was summoned for assaulting the complainant, who is one of the members of the crew.

Defendant denied the assault.

Complainant stated that between eight and nine o'clock on the evening of the 19th inst., defendant came on board the boat under the influence of liquor. He was asleep at the time, and defendant struck him with his fist on the body and side. He ran away. He was kicked twice on the side, and had been in bed three days. A doctor had dressed the wound on his side. It had been very sore, but was getting better. He had not been on the boat since the occurrence.

Defendant said it was strange the complainant should be in bed when he saw him and the other members of the crew at the Consulate the day after the affair took place. He had also seen him on the boat removing his clothing. The crew had sailed with him two years, and it was very curious if he had assaulted them now when he had not done so before. They had put it on to the complainant because he could not speak English as well as the others.

His Worship—And you tried to quicken his apprehension of English by using your feet and fists.

Defendant—So they say; but it seems strange that I should.

Complainant, in answer to his Worship, said he came to the Consulate on a wheelbarrow to take out the summons. Two other members of the crew were with him. He did not fetch his clothing from the boat, but sent another man for it.

The bowdah was called to give corroborative evidence, but said he knew nothing of the affair.

Two of the sailors confirmed the complainant's statement, adding that when the defendant came on board they were asleep, expecting not to be required until the following morning. They had received orders to that effect. Defendant wanted them to heave the anchor up. He struck two others besides the complainant, who, they both positively stated, had not been on the boat since the affair happened, but had been staying at a house in Hongkew. The defendant was a good master when sober, but not when drunk.

Defendant, when called upon for his defence, said he would admit all what the witnesses had stated.

His Worship—Then you did thrash them?

Defendant—I took them out of their banks because I wanted the anchor up. I don't think I kicked him.

His Honour said he had taken great pains with the case. He had heard each man separately, and they agreed in their story in matters which they could not have been expected to be questioned upon. It was clear defendant went on board in a passion, under the influence of liquor, in an excited state, and finding the men asleep and perhaps loath to get up, he set to work to drive them up on deck with his fists and feet. That was a thing he could not allow to pass, and defendant would have to pay a fine of $10 and costs.

March 28th.

R. *v.* W. H. Shaw.

Charge of Larceny.

Mr. Wainewright appeared for the prosecution.

Mr. Rennie defended the prisoner.

Yang Heding interpreted the chief portion of the Chinese evidence.

In opening the case, Mr. Wainewright said—As your Worship is aware, this is a charge of larceny against the prisoner—of unlawfully obtaining in the month of March, 1876, while in the employ of Messrs. Francis & Co., at Kiukiang, the sum of Tls. 5,800, Kiukiang currency. I do not propose to make any observations now, and will at once call the first witness.

Edwin Mackintosh deposed—I am in the employ of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire. They are the agents for the C. N. Company, whose steamers ply on the Yangtsze. I have chiefly to do with the river steamers. Among other places the steamers trade between Shanghai and Kiukiang. The Company have agents in Kiukiang. In March, 1876, R. Francis & Co. were their agents at Kiukiang. Their agency commenced 1st April, 1873, and terminated 31st March, 1876. Robert Anderson & Co. then became their agents. I had the general management of the whole affairs in Shanghai—of all business connected with the Kiukiang agency. All the correspondence passed through my hands—letters coming in from Kiukiang and letters going out. The signature of all letters and documents from Kiukiang was, "p. R. Francis & Co., W. H. Shaw, agents for C.N. Company." They were always signed in that way. I have seen Shaw when he has been down here, and talked with him on business matters. I am therefore able to say our correspondent was the accused. The accounts at Kiukiang were rendered to us separately—to Butterfield & Swire and to C.N. Company. The latter were rendered to us as agents of the C.N. Company. The accounts rendered to us as Butterfield & Swire, treated chiefly of advances. R. Francis & Co. had power to advance money on goods, which were intended to be shipped by the Co.'s steamers, the goods being under the control of R. Francis & Co. They had authority to do that. It was in writing. Those advances were made with the moneys of Butterfield & Swire. There were in addition items of duty payments, and a balance of the C.N. Co.'s account—balance of payments. In making these advances, sometimes sycee was sent to Francis & Co., and sometimes they drew upon us. The drafts came to us from people who bought them. I gathered from the drafts that they had been sold at Kiukiang, or that sometimes they were sold in Hankow. I received the account produced from Kiukiang. The signature is in the handwriting of the prisoner. It is an account rendered to Butterfield & Swire.

The Court marked the account "No. 1."

Witness resumed—It is signed by Shaw. I know his handwriting. It is the last account I received from him. It is dated 31st March, 1876. It showed an amount was due Frances and Co. of Tls. 266.8.6, Kiukiang currency. That amount was drawn for. The draft produced is the one signed by the prisoner in the usual way. (Marked, for reference, "No. 2.") The amount of that draft was paid by Butterfield and Swire. In that account there are two advances mentioned, on the 26th March, to Yo-chêng, on paper, Tls. 2,600; to Loong-kee, on paper, Tls. 3,200. I have reason to believe that that account is incorrect. We subsequently transferred the agency, and afterwards received an account from Anderson and Co. It is signed, "p. R. Anderson and Co., W. H. Shaw." The signature is prisoner's handwriting. This account shows repayment of the two items. There are some red ink figures on "No. 1" account, which do not belong to the account. They were merely put on by a book-keeper, on transfer of the account. The credit of those two amounts has been written back by R. Anderson & Co. Butterfield and Swire are at the present time out of pocket by the amount of Tls. 5,800, Kiukiang currency. I know that of my own knowledge. The letter produced is in the handwriting of the prisoner. It was addressed to R. Francis and Co. on the 8th Feb (Letter read.) I have had conversation with Mr. Francis on this affair. I mentioned to him the sum of Tls. 5,800. That was previously to the 17th of January. I had also mentioned some other small sums, amounting together to under Tls. 50. I cannot be certain if the pencil marks on the letter are in the prisoner's handwriting.

Mr. Rennie declined to cross-examine.

William Lang next deposed—I am a member of the firm of Butterfield & Swire. I am the only member of the firm in Shanghai. I was here during 1876—the whole year. I know the signature to account "No. 1." It is the prisoner's signature. I received that account. We are now out of pocket Tls. 5,800 by that account. My firm have never received that amount in connection with the Kiukiang agency. Shortly before the 17th January I had conversations with Mr. Francis on this matter. I mentioned to him the Tls. 5,800, and another item of Tls. 30 or Tls. 40. Before the 17th January, I mentioned the deficiency of Tls. 5,800 to Mr. Francis. I mentioned it to him as soon as it was discovered. The discovery was made towards the end of the year. I have never received the money.

Mr. Rennie again declined to cross-examine.

Frederick James Townsend deposed—I am in the employ of Messrs. R. Anderson & Co., and have been so from the 1st April, 1876. I am general clerk, and also attend to the books. I am stationed at Hankow. At the time I entered their employment, the prisoner also entered it. He had to attend to the business of the C.N. Co.'s steamers. I know the signature to this account (produced.) The bulk of the account is in the handwriting of a Chinese shroff. The entry to the debit, "10th of May, B. & S. loans repaid, Tls. 5,800; int. on do., March 26th —— May 10th, 45, with ds. (days) over it, Tls. 87; then carried out, Tls. 5,887," is in the prisoner's handwriting. The signature is also his. I have had to deal with the books of the agency at Kiukiang. I had to balance them. I did it at one time—not at several. Those were the accounts from May to October, 1876. I did that in Kiukiang. I thus came to know what books were used. There are two compradores at Kiukiang. There was a cash account kept with the steamer compradore. There were also a house journal and a ledger. Those books are not here. I produce the rough cash book of the steamer compradore. It is the one I allude to. There is also a house cash book, but it has nothing to do with the steamers. The repayment of the Tls. 5,800 does not appear in any of the books. I have investigated the books of R. Anderson & Co. to see if that amount had been paid. The money has never come into our possession, so far as I can gather from the books. All moneys on steamer account of R. Anderson & Co. are paid to the steamer compradore. They would include repayment of advances—all moneys repaid. I know that Butterfield and Swire were credited in the account current (No. 3) with the payment of Tls. 5,800, but not in the books. When I looked through the books I found the amount had not been entered. I found a press copy of the account, and, on comparing it with the books, found that that sum did not appear in the books. Prisoner was absent at that time. I enquired of the compradore and others, and found no trace of it. I made no enquiry of the prisoner about it. At the time prisoner was at Kiukiang, Mr. John Anderson and Mr. Grant were also there. That was after the transfer. Mr. Anderson is not in China now. He left before I found out the discrepancy. Mr. Grant is there now. Anderson and Co. wrote back in their books this amount of Tls. 5,800. They have refused to recognise that amount.

Mr. Rennie declined to cross-examine this witness.

Chan-ting Woo, cautioned, deposed—I belong to Loong-kee hong in Kiukiang. I live in Shanghai. The book I produce is the cash-book—the Kiukiang cash-book. The Kiukiang shroff sent it me down yesterday. The book shows the accounts of the foreign hong. It does not appear in the book that any money was lent by Francis & Co. to our hong during the second or third moon of last year. Our firm deals in tea. We never deal in paper. (Book put in.)

By His Worship—That is the only part of the book that relates to Francis and Co.?

Witness—Yes.

It was arranged that a copy of this portion of the book should be made, and the book returned to the witness, who alleged that he wanted it for his business purposes.

Mr. Rennie said—There is a matter I now wish to mention to your Worship. It is very material to the prisoner's defence that an examination of the Chinese books which are going to be produced should be made, and that cannot be done very rapidly. I shall therefore have to ask for a remand of some reasonable length to enable that examination to be made, before I decide whether to cross-examine the witnesses or not. We shall certainly not be able to close this examination to-day, because of the necessity of examining the compradore's books. When they have been examined, I shall be in a position to say whether I shall cross-examine him not. It would very likely save

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time by adopting that course, and at the resumption of the examination we shall be able to go straight on.

Mr. Wainewright—I do not know whether you are entitled to inspect any of these books before they are produced in Court.

Mr. Rennie—Perhaps I am not entitled to do so; but as the books are going to be produced, I thought I might, in the accused's interest, be permitted to do so.

His Worship (to Mr. Wainewright)—Do you not intend to proceed now with the case?

Mr. Wainewright—Yes; I am ready to go on.

His Worship—Then why not go on?

Counsel having conferred, it was decided to proceed; but it being near twelve o'clock, the Court adjourned till two.

Upon resuming,

Yo-sheng deposed—I am a member of the Yock-shing hong and live at Kiukiang. Our firm deals in porcelain ware and paper. I keep the books. We did business last year with Francis & Co. and Anderson and Co. No advances were made to our firm by either of those firms. I received no payment at all from Ying-mow (Francis & Co.) in the second moon of last year. I produce a book of our dealings with foreign merchants at Kiukiang. It contains a record of all our transactions with them. Our firm made a payment to Anderson & Co. in the third moon of last year—Kiukiang Tls. 831, for duties on paper. It was on the 5th day of third moon. It was for duty, not advances. There were no payments in either the third or fourth moon. Did not get an advance last year of Tls. 2,600, on paper. Did not get any advance at all last year.

Wang-tsz-ching deposed—I was Ying-mow's compradore during 1876. It will be three years and a-half on the 8th moon this year, since I went there. I finished with them in April last year. I am now with Anderson and Co. When I was with Ying-mow, I was the only compradore. The foreign manager at Kiukiang was Mr. Shaw. There was no other foreigner in management there then. Ying-mow made advances on cargo going by steamers—on various things. I paid the money to the people; always, as far as I know. All money on goods shipped by Chinese on our steamers went through my hands. I paid it in sycee. If we had ready money, we paid cash out; if not, we drew bills. It was at times paid according to the wish of the person,—sometimes by bills and sometimes in sycee. The sycee was kept in the treasury, if it was a good amount. The treasury was a room in the house. When we paid in paper, it was in foreign bills. Mr. Shaw used to give me the bills, I sold them in the market, and gave the sycee I got for them to the merchant. In fact, I always paid the advance to the merchant in sycee. I know Yo-sheng and Loong-kee. They got no advances from our firm last year. The book I produce contains entries of all the money paid last year. It is the general cash book. On the 4th March I paid Yo-sheng Tls. 72.75 for Customs duty; and Tls. 146.57 on August 24th, for Custom's duty on porcelain ware. No other payment was made to Yo-sheng during March last. There were some payments to Loong-kee, for duties, in March last. On the 24th day, Tls. 400 for lead. It was for lead sold. It was not an advance. When I left Messrs. Francis, I went to Messrs. Anderson and Co.'s as compradore. There is another compradore there. I am the steamer compradore. All the steamer business passes through me. When advances are repaid in cash, they are generally paid in Shanghai. They are rarely repaid in Kiukiang. I received from Yo-sheng, in April and May, Tls. 950 for duties, not in payment of advances. I received nothing more from them in April or May. I received from Loong-kee, on 5th day 3rd moon (30th March), Tls. 1,862 on account of the purchase of lead. It was not an advance. On the 5th day of the 3rd moon, I received Shanghai Tls. 1,000, from Yo-sheng, also for lead. In the ordinary course of business, when I was with Francis and Co., if advances were repaid in Kiukiang in money, it would pass through my hands. I do not know of any case in which Mr. Shaw advanced money without having the security of cargo against it. I have here the general book of Ying-mow (Messrs. Francis), a book showing moneys received and paid by me. That is the only one I had while I was with Messrs. Francis and Co., during the past two years. It goes back for two years. I have also the cash book of Messrs. Anderson and Co. It shows money transactions between myself and the firm. This (Messrs. Francis) book shows sales of opium and lead to Chinese. I have no other books or papers here connected with the business of Messrs. Francis & Co. The book in which the business with native hongs and firms is entered, extends over both Messrs. Anderson's and Messrs. Francis's time.

There being no further evidence forthcoming to-day,

Mr. Rennie asked for an adjournment for a week.

Mr. Wainewright—If my friend merely wants the adjournment to enable him to cross-examine the witnesses, I do not know that I can consent to it, because it will be very inconvenient for some of them to remain in Shanghai for the purpose.

Mr. Rennie—It is impossible to say, without an examination of the compradore's books, what will be done.

Mr. Wainewright—I will offer no further objection to an adjournment, if you will release Mr. Townend and Yo-Sheng, because it it will be inconvenient to keep them here so long.

Mr. Rennie (after consultation with his client)—It is only the compradore we shall want.

Mr. Wainewright—Upon that understanding, we will consent to an adjournment till Wednesday.

His Worship—I understand that the two witnesses, Mr. Townend and Yo-Sheng, will not be wanted here on Wednesday, when you will go on with the case. Do you not propose to have them here when the case is closed? I ask because if they are not to come here again, it will be necessary for me to read over their depositions now.

Mr. Rennie—Before that is done, there is just one question that I want to put to Mr Townend.

It was, however, decided not to proceed further to-day, but to adjourn the case till next morning, at ten o'clock, to enable the evidence of the two witnesses named to be supplemented.

The accused was then liberated on bail, himself in $1,000, and two sureties in $500 each.

March 29th.

On the hearing being resumed this morning, Mr. Wainewright said he proposed to recall Mr. Townend, to add a little to the evidence he gave the previous day.

Mr. Townend was then recalled. He said—I know the book produced. A few days ago it was found in one of the drawers in our office at Kiukiang. The entries it contains are in Mr. Shaw's hand-writing. I have examined the book and take it to be a copy or a rough original of Messrs. Francis & Co.'s cash account. It is exactly in the same state now as it was in when I found it. I also produce a book in which R. Anderson & Co.'s steamer compradore's cash account is written up. It is a rough cash book. For the month of May the whole of the entries are in Mr. Shaw's hand-writing with the exception of the three words "rent on hulk," and the figures "22.4S," opposite the words which are on the fourth page. I have examined the book and find that it contains no entry of the receipts of either of the two sums of Tls. 2,600 and Tls. 3,200.

The evidence of Mr. Townend and that of Wang-tsz-ching was then read over and signed by them, after which the case was again adjourned till ten o'clock on Friday morning, the 6th prox., instead of Wednesday next, on which day the accused's bail was extended.

H.B.M.'s REGISTRY OFFICE OF SHIPPING.

Shanghai, March 25th.

Before W. Handyside Tapp, Esq., *Registrar.*

Collision between the "Loudoun Castle" and "Macgregor" steamers.

The following statements in respect of this collision were made on behalf of the *Macgregor*, on Sunday, in consequence of that vessel being outward bound;—

At 8.15 a.m., the *Macgregor*, being above the bar marks, saw the steamer *Loudoun Castle* coming in from sea. The *Macgregor* stopped engines to allow her to cross the bar, so as to prevent meeting on the bar. At 8.17, went easy ahead, to keep steerage way on the ship. At 8.18, stopped engines on seeing the *Loudoun Castle* was endeavouring to pass inside of us by crossing our bows, we (steamer *Macgregor*) being at the same time close in, and in our own draft of water, 18 feet. At 8.21, seeing the *Loudoun Castle* was still steaming across our bows, went full speed astern to prevent collision. At 8.23, going full speed astern, the *Loudoun Castle* still crossing our bows, and going very fast through the water, struck us on the starboard bow, and doing damage as stated in paper attached. The collision occurred between the telegraph poles above the bar.

(Signed) Fred. Newell, *Master.*
A. L. Lundgreen, *1st Mate.*
W. C. Roll, *2nd Mate.*
Henry Chards, *Quartermaster at wheel.*
James Simms, *Quartermaster at lead.*
W. A. Burr, *Pilot, steamer "Macgregor."*

25th March, 1877.

Damage done to the "Macgregor."

One plate on ship's side torn off forecastle deck, about six feet in length, requiring new plate from butt to butt; also angle frame; four iron stanchions carried away, and 20 feet of iron rails; cathead torn from deck, with block and stopper, and all gear attached, damaging forecastle deck. Forecastle deck started, and also the covering boards. Stem cut into in two places and slightly bent. Also main deck damaged and plate started.

All this damage is on the starboard side. My engines were easy, as required, twenty minutes before the vessels touched. About two minutes before we were going full speed astern. I consider the ship had about half-a-knot of stern way on when struck.

Signed) Robert Saddler,
Chief Engineer.

March 29th.

Statement respecting a collision which took place, on the Twenty-fifth (25th) day of March, 1877, at 8.20 a.m., in the River Hwangpoo, between the S.S. *Loudoun Castle*, of Glasgow, and the S.S. *Macgregor* of Leith. We the undersigned,

Alexander Marshall, Master, *Loudoun Castle*,
Andrew Scott, Chief officer ,,
Thomas Ball, Third ,, ,,
George Neisson, Quartermaster ,,
D. C. Campbell, Licensed Pilot, Shanghai
Henry D. Woolfe, Imperial Maritime Customs,

hereby declare as follows:—

Whilst proceeding across the Inner Bar (at the entrance to the Hwangpoo River), tide, one hour from high water, steamer in charge of Mr. D. C. Campbell, licensed pilot, observed S. S. *Macgregor*, of Leith, which was proceeding outwards, lying about two or three ships' length inside the Bar, apparently unmanageable, with her head towards the Pootung shore, at an angle of 45° to the bank of the river.

As she was three points on our starboard bow, the distance between us was too little to port our helm, as we must have run into his amidships in addition to getting on shore on the spit, so kept our helm a-starboard, whistling to him that we had done so; he making no reply stopped our steamer and went full speed astern, putting our helm a-port in order to ease the blow, as her cat head caught the supports of the upper bridge, tearing it away, boats, davits, and smashing rails, putting a hole in the bulwarks and other damage. He immediately went to sea, without ever asking or waiting to see what damage he had done, my steamer, the *Loudoun Castle*, remaining fast on shore; sent to Shanghai, and got lighters and tug-boats to assist the steamer in getting off.

Alexander Marshall, Master.
Andrew Scott, Chief Officer.
Thomas Ball, Third Officer.
George Neisson, Quartermaster.
D. C. Campbell, Licensed Pilot.
Henry D. Woolfe, Imp. Maritime Customs.

The foregoing statement made and declared by the within named Alexander Marshall, Andrew Scott, Thomas Ball, George Neisson, D. C. Campbell, and Henry D. Woolfe, before me

W. Handyside Tapp,
H.B.M.'s Registrar of Shipping, Port of Shanghai.

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Extracts.

COINAGE REFORMS AT MANILA.

The following decree regarding the suppression of foreign coins appeared in the Manila *Gaceta* of the 21st March, 1877, and was reproduced in the *Comercio*:—

1.—From this date and until further notice the introduction of foreign coins of all classes into these islands is forbidden.

2.—With regard to the previous article, all the coins sent for from foreign countries previous to the publication of the present decree, are excepted. The parties interested must furnish to the Exchequer within 24 hours, a true list of such requisition for the examination and satisfaction of the Board.

3.—The Mexican silver coins in circulation in the islands, in virtue of the decree of the 24th July, 1876, issued by the Board of Exchequer, may continue to circulate as the legal tender of the country.

4.—The recoining of the said coins will be proceeded with immediately and with all readiness in the Manila Mint, converting them into Spanish coins within the least possible time, after which there will be no other legal tender but that of the Spanish coinage so far as silver coins are concerned; all other coin will be considered as bullion or in its intrinsic value only.

5.—All other previous decrees against this are considered null and void.

The *Comercio* adds: "We deduce from this that all the Mexican coins at present in circulation, together with those sent for from China up to the date of the last trip of the *Salvadora*, will be accepted at the Government offices at par, provided the Government are made acquainted with all necessary particulars within the time required; and as they are received at the Treasury, the dollars will be sent to the Mint for conversion into Spanish coins of 50, 20 and 10-cent pieces, so that the public will suffer no loss whatever by the money they have already in hand for circulation. It can be said therefore that the foreign coins in question can at present be considered equal in value to Spanish money considering the present views of the Government, which are solely intended to stop the crisis that seemed impending."

THE REBELLION IN JAPAN.

The latest news of the progress of the rebellion is contained in the Nagasaki *Rising Sun* of the 31st March, which says:—The past week has been one of severe fighting. At daylight on Friday the 23rd, General Kuroda, in command of five battalions of troops, attacked and defeated the rebels at Yatsushiro, which place he made his headquarters. On the same day a severe battle took place at Uyeki, neither party gaining a victory. The fight was renewed next day at dawn, and the Government troops vanquished the rebels after seven hours' hard struggle. The former occupied Korumei, a town about four miles from Kumamoto. The result of the Imperial victory was thus a gain of three miles nearer the desired goal. On the 25th, reinforcements poured in to the Imperialists, and the rebels were attacked in four places, viz: at Miyanohara, Tanoyama, Kitakawamura, and Kagamiguchi. Throughout the day the rebels fought bravely, and in the two former places temporarily succeeded in forcing back the Government troops, but sustained defeat in the two latter, where fighting was renewed at four p.m., and ere dusk the Imperialists recovered their lost ground and occupied the four before mentioned places. On the 26th, the rebels having been reinforced, commenced the attack in the vicinity of Uyeki. The struggle was of a most desperate character, neither side having gained a foot of ground when darkness set in. On the 27th, the fight was renewed with a like result, and on the 28th, the combatants rested. The battling around Uyeki is characterised by great bravery on the part of both sides, neither combatants yielding an inch. The struggle was said to have been renewed on the 29th, but with what result is not known. On the 28th, five hundred Kumamoto rebels attacked three hundred of the Government police at Ooyasumi, half a mile from Fukuoka. The latter held their ground, and being reinforced on the following morning they in turn attacked the former, and compelled the rebels to retreat after three hours combat. The head-quarters of the Imperial commander-in-chief are now at Konoka. There is not a particle of foundation for the current rumour that Saigo has taken Kumamoto. The probability of the rebels doing so is now more remote than ever, as the garrison heroically hold out, and almost daily large bodies of Imperial troops arrive from the north. The power of the Government is being so concentrated as to be irresistible by the rebels, and those best informed look forward to an early collapse of the present rising.

The *Hiogo News* publishes several Foreign Office telegrams, which however, only come down to the 17th March, and are not worth extracting; while the Yokohama papers literally contain nothing from the seat of war beyond extracts from the native papers and deductions of their own therefrom.

The *Gazette*, indeed, says there is still no definite news from the seat of the civil war. The opinion that a compromise with Saigo will, after all, be effected, gains ground in many quarters.

The *Herald* states that it is said in Tokio, where many letters are received from the army, that the Government troops are getting disheartened on account of their constant defeats, and the bold front shown by the rebels, who seem to think of nothing but victory or death.

The *Mail* says the principal matter of interest that has transpired has been the arrest and imprisonment of Oyama Tsunayoshi, Vice-Governor of Kagoshima *ken*. He appears to have been lured to return to Kioto by Yanagiwara, the Envoy sent by the Mikado to Shimadzu, and on his arrival in Kobe he was arrested, degraded, and sent to Tokio a prisoner, being treated, while on the voyage to this port, with great indignity. Indeed it was only owing to strong representations on the part of the European portion of the passengers, that he was permitted to be removed from the steerage where he had been placed in the vicinity of the cattle, and allowed to receive the commonest elements of comfort. His only crime appears to have been the arrest and examination of the men who were undoubtedly sent by some one or other to create a disturbance in Satsuma, and either to assassinate those leaders whose principles are too patriotic to suit the present Government, or to involve them in certain schemes so as give a fair excuse for their judicial murder.

TELEGRAMS.

Berlin, 5th March.

General Ignatieff has arrived here on a special mission from St. Petersburg, and will afterwards pay a special visit to Paris and Vienna.

Washington, 5th March.

President Hayes has issued an inaugural address to Congress, in which he strongly urges the union of all parties, in order that orderly Government may be restored to the Southern States. He also urges a speedy return to specie payments.

London, 6th March.

General Ignatieff will not visit London in connection with his special mission, but will meet Count Schouvaloff at Paris, whither the Count proceeds for that purpose.

Mr. Ward Hunt estimates the expenses of the Navy for the coming year at 10¾ millions.

In the House of Commons last night, Mr. Hardy, in presenting his Army Estimates, said that the condition of the Army was at present excellent, and that he would shortly present a plan for the promotion and retirement of officers.

Constantinople, 6th March.

The Porte objects to the demands by Montenegro in arranging terms of peace, which comprise certain cessions of territory and a seaport.

St. Petersburg, 6th March.

An Imperial ukase has been issued ordering the organisation of nine army corps.

London, 7th March.

According to information from St. Petersburg, Russia still maintains an expectant attitude pending the replies from the Powers to Prince Gortschakoff's circular.

The number of recruits joining the British army since the beginning of January has been 1,000 weekly.

Reuter's Office announces from Constantinople that the Porte maintains the firm attitude adopted at the Conference, and accepts war with Russia in preference to having the present state of suspense prolonged. On the other hand, information from the same source states that Russia rejects the suggestion to allow Turkey a year's grace in which to carry out the promise of reforms.

St. Petersburg, 8th March.

Prince Gortschakoff has instructed the Russian Envoys to declare that Russia will withdraw from the treaty of 1856 unless the Powers co-operate to obtain the acceptance of the original programme presented at the Conference.

London, 8th March.

In the House of Commons to-night Mr. Bourke, replying to a question, said that the answer to Prince Gortschakoff's circular had been deferred at the request of Russia, who had promised communications on the subject, which however had not yet been received. The prolonged absence of the British Ambassador from Constantinople, he said, was not intentional.

Washington, 9th March.

President Hayes has nominated W. M. Evarts as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, General Sherman as Secretary of the Treasury, and Carl Schurz as Secretary of the Interior.

London, 13th March.

Russia withdraws from the Treaty of 1856, unless the Powers agree to co-operate in obtaining the fulfilment of the programme decided upon at the conference.

Russia has made fresh proposals for collective action on the part of the Powers.

Montenegro persists in her demands.

Colonel MacLeod, 74th Regiment, appointed Acting Governor during the absence of Sir William Jervois.

Constantinople, 15th March.

The Porte has rejected the conditions submitted by Montenegro. General Ignatieff has proceeded to London.

London, 22nd March.

Fighting has been renewed in Bosnia, and great warlike preparations are being made throughout the whole of Asiatic Turkey.

The Porte still persists in refusing the conditions of peace asked by Montenegro.

The separate command in the Straits and China is to be abolished.

24th March.

The boat race between Oxford and Cambridge has resulted in a dead heat, the first on record.

London, 26th March.

A Treaty has been signed between England, Spain, and Germany with reference to the Sooloo question.

The Queen has conferred the honour of Knighthood on Mr. W. H Medhurst, late H.B.M. Consul at Shanghai.

Clippings.

The Chinese Embassy are said to be much charmed with our English ladies; especially are they proud and happy above all words to see that English girls affect the "celestial" pig-tail; and, with a bit of bright ribbon, what fashion of doing the hair could be more "taking" to the eyes of East and West!—*Vanity Fair.*

The Melbourne *Argus* of the 10th ult. says:—The brig *Rebecca Jane*, which left here some time since on a cruise in the South Pacific for guano deposits on the islands, has returned to port via Maryborough, whence she has brought a cargo of cedar logs. She has also brought 50 tons of guano, a sample taken from a reef near Huon Island. While cruising round the island Captain Kennard came across a portion of the wreck of the *Maitland*, a tea clipper, which was lost on a voyage from Queensland to China some time ago. The wreck had been visited previously, and to some purpose, for it was stripped of everything useful or valuable, and the copper had evidently been removed by professional divers. Several of the spars had been used in the erection of a large hut on the island, and there were traces of various kinds of vegetables having been grown round about.

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI, 4TH APRIL, 1877.

ARRIVALS.—The P. & O. steamer *Khiva* with the London mails of 16th February. The steamer *Antenor* from Liverpool; steamer *Glenartney* and the ship *Eliza Shaw* from London.

PIECE GOODS.—A most unsatisfactory week was that which ended yesterday afternoon; lifeless, cheerless throughout, and depressed at the close. The orders from the interior have been few and insignificant, and the first news of the season from NEWCHWANG is disappointing, while the advices from TIENTSIN seem to be concocted solely with the view of bewildering people, being better and worse by each succeeding steamer.

Grey Shirtings.—The results of the three auctions—recorded below—give a very clear idea of the course of prices for 6, 7 and 8½-lbs. A decline of from 2½ a 5 cands. per piece in one week is strong evidence of the state of the market, and the feelings of those holders whom the auctions have supplanted may be far more easily imagined than described. A select minority, favored by the "special" clause, have been able to observe their Easter holidays in a becoming manner, and make a little progress with sales at or about the last quoted figures; thus, Dewhurst's *Eagle, Green Lion* and *Red Pheasant*, 8½-lbs., have respectively realised Tls. 1.88, Tls. 1.80, and Tls. 1.70 per piece, but the importers of most other chops have to mourn over the unstained pages of their contract books, notwithstanding their willingness to meet buyers upon almost any terms, so to speak. *Heavy makes.*—In reference to these it is only necessary to say that "*Mildew*" appeared simultaneously with the unfavorable news from NEWCHWANG, and that, since then, several contracts—portions whereof had previously been cleared without any complaint—have been repudiated by the buyers, who have gone so far as to refuse the respectable cut of 1 a 1½ mace per piece in respect of the damage real or supposed; and the worst part of the business is that sellers are utterly powerless to exact fulfilment of the contracts.

White Shirtings.—Best 64-reeds have maintained their value, but demand is weak, and some ordinary counts have sold at Tls. 1.65½ per piece. *Irish Folds* continue in favour, but are out of stock.

T-Cloths.—Low 6-lbs have been in some request, and business in them has taken place at Tl. 0.83 a 0.90 per piece; and about 1,000 pieces common 7-lbs have been taken at Tls. 1.01 a 1.03 per piece. For ordinary mexicans of the latter weight enquiry has been languid and prices are easier, but best, although not in active request, are wanted, and higher rates have been given for special chops. A few ordinary 8-lbs have changed hands at Tls. 1.42 a 1.45 per piece, and the value of Dewhurst's M.T. *Eagle* is fixed by sale at Tls. 1.65 per piece.

Drills.—*Dutch*—3,300 pieces *Gelderman's Dragon* have found a buyer at Tls. 2.28 per piece, and the market for *English* 14-lbs has been moderately active, the ruling rates—Tls. 1.88 a 1.91½ per piece—shewing a little improvement on those current last week.

Jeans.—The settlements are under 3,000 pieces, and holders are willing sellers at from Tls. 1.48 a 1.56 for ordinary to good ordinary makes of *English*.

Sheetings.—Small business privately in *English*, 15-lbs. at Tls. 2.20 a 2.25 per piece.

American Goods—DRILLS. P.M.C. and M.M. have been wanted at Tls. 2.85 and Tls. 2.75, and there has been business in the latter at quotations, as well as in "*Lion*" chop at Tls. 2.70 per piece, but the "*Cock*" (Boot Mill) is not in favor, and is taken only at a considerable discount, to which holders seem unwilling to submit. JEANS.—Quiet. Nothing reported. SHEETINGS.—Further sales of *Indian Head, Lion* and *Massachusetts* at Tls. 2.75 and 2.70 per piece, the market closing steadily. Total business recorded—*Drills*, about 5,000, and 8,000 pieces *Sheetings*.

Fancy Cottons.—Sales of *Chintzes* have been effected at auction, and *Turkey Reds* have been disposed of in the same way, bringing full values for the light weights, but showing an easier market for 2½ a 3-lbs. *Chintzes* also have been sold privately at from Tls. 1.40 a 1.50 per piece, and 120 pieces of *Velveteens* appear in the market book at Tl. 0.11½ per yard. *Handkerchiefs* find buyers still, and there are merchants for *Imitation Cashmeres* of *Peacock* design and good assortment, but those importers who hold goods which do not exactly suit the taste of the trade find great difficulty in selling. 500 pieces *Mahommedan Cloths*, fine, at Tl. 0.12½ per yard cash, have been booked. A sale of *Yarn*—No. 30—at Tls. 83 per bale is announced.

Woollens.—*Camlets* and *Spanish Stripes.*—In these business has been confined to the auction sales, and prices are lower. *Lastings* also show a decline, and are not in much favor, although fair quotations are returned from Newchwang by the steamer arriving here yesterday. *Long Ells.*—Still neglected, and, although the dealers have had their desire fulfilled inasmuch as there have been none offered by auction for two weeks back, prices are weaker than they were. No. 2 *Crape Lastings* have realised Tls. 3.80 per piece for a small lot, and there are buyers in the market for *Plain Lustres* (regarding which there is likewise encouragement from Newchwang)—but still at prices which are not entertained by sellers. Special colors—*Scarlet* more particularly—of *Figured Orleans*, are also wanted for that market, but there is no movement to notice in the position of *Medium Cloths*, the business reported a short time back having fully supplied all demand up to the present time.

O. P. H.	Scarlet.	Dark Blue.	Gentian.	Green.	Orange.	Ash.	White.	Purple.	Black.	Mauve.
Camlets, Retail prices .....per piece...Tls.	12.9.5	13.1.0	14.1.0	12.2.5	13.3.5	...	...	13.5.0	13.2.5	13.0.0
Long Ells, ,, ... ,, ... ,,	nom.	nom.	nom.	nom.	nom.	nom.	nom.	nom.	nom.	nom.
Spanish Stripes, ,, ...per yard ... ,,	0.5.2	0.5.2	0.5.3	0.6.0	0.5.7	0.6.0	0.5.8	0.5.6	0.5.3	0.5.3

YUEN-FONG, Auction 29th ultc.	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Gentian.	Green.	Orange.	Ash.	White	Purple.	Black.	Mauve.	Lt. Gr.	Sales.
												Pcs.
Camlets S.S.G. p. pce. $	12.90/80	12.62½/65	12.87½	12.45/42½	14.17½/20	...	...	13.65/62½	13.17½/15	13.60	.....	660
Sp. Stripes T.T.B. p.yd. ,,	0.57½/57¼	0.56½	0.54½	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	300
KIN-MING, Auction yesterday.												
Camlets C.P.H. p. pce. $	12.95/95	13.10	14.03/11	12.25	13.87½	...	...	13.50	.....	13.50/62½	14.47½	560
Lastings ,, ,, ,,	.....	.....	10.57½	.....	.....	...	...	.....	11.15/17½	.....	.....	80
Sp.Stripes ,, p. yd. ,,	0.52½/51.8	0.52½/0.52	0.52½/53½	0.60½	0.56½	...	...	0.56	0.53½	.....	.....	312

AUCTION SALES OF COTTON GOODS—"*Yuen-Fong*"—

GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs. *House*, 3,000 pieces, at Tls. 1.30½ a 1.31 per piece. T-CLOTHS—7-lbs. *House*, 2,000 pieces, at Tls. 1.02 a 1.02½ per piece. WHITE SHIRTINGS—64-reed *Blue Lighthouse*, 2,000 pieces, at Tls. 1.65½ a 1.65½ per piece.

"*Yan Loong*"—2nd instant—

GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs. *Flying Horse*, 1,250 pieces, at Tls. 1.24½ per piece. T-CLOTHS—7-lbs., 2,500 pieces, at Tls. 1.18½ a 1.18½ for *Two Cash*; Tls. 1.15½ for *Butterfly*; Tls. 0.98 for *One Cash*; and 6-lbs. *One Cash*, 250 pieces, at Tl. 0.86 per piece. WHITE SHIRTINGS—64 reed *Flying Horse*, 500 pieces, at Tls. 1.53½ per piece. SHEETINGS—15-lbs. *Dragon*, 250 pieces, at Tls. 2.20 per piece. JEANS—8-lbs. *Peacock*, 500 pieces, at Tls. 1.46½ per piece. VELVETS—12-in. *Black Lie Woman*, 150 pieces, at Tls. 0.16.4 per yard.

"*Kin-Ming.*"—

GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs., 8,450 pieces, at Tls. 1.65½ a 1.65 for *Red Lion*; Tls. 1.54 a 1.54½ for *Blue Lion*; Tls. 1.47½ a 1.48½ for *Green Lion*; 7-lbs. *Blue Lion*, 500 pieces, at Tls. 1.25½ per piece, and 6-lbs. *Peacock*, 1,000 pieces, at Tl. 1.00 per piece. T-CLOTHS—7lbs., 2,650 pieces, at Tls. 1.35½ a 1.36½ for *Sun*; Tls. 1.20½ a 1.21 for *Blue Ram*; Tls. 1.24½ for *Red Ram*; Tls. 1.11½ for *Green Ram*; Tls. 1.04 for *Red Peacock*; Tls. 1.05½ for *Blue Peacock*; Tl. 0.96½ for *Green Peacock*; and 6-lbs., 750 pieces, at Tl. 0.90½ for *Red Peacock*; Tl. 0.87½ for *Blue Peacock*; Tl. 0.80½ for *Green Peacock*. DRILLS—14-lbs., 600 pieces, at Tls. 1.87 for *Blue Peacock*; ls. 1.86 for *Green Peacock*.

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QUOTATIONS—Duty Paid.			Duty.*
		T.m.c. T.m.c.	Tls. m. c.
G. E. Grey Shirtings—			
6-lbs. 39 in. 38½ yds.	₱ pc.	1.0.0 to 1.1.0	
7lbs.	,,	1.0.0 ,, 1.3.5	
Dewhurst's Eagle,	,,	1.6.0 ,, nom.	
8¼ @ 8½ lbs.	,,	1.2.5 ,, 1.3.8	
9 *a* 9½-lbs.	,,	1.3.4 ,, 2.0.7	
9¾ *a* 10-lbs.	,,	1.9.5 ,, 2.2.0	
Dewhurst's, Best	,,	2.5.5 ,, 2.6.5	0.0.8 per pce.
G. E. White Shirtings—			
40 yds. 36 in. 56 R. nom:	₱ pc.	1.4.0 ,, 1.5.5	
60 reed	,,	1.5.0 ,, 1.5.5	
64 ,,	,,	1.5.5 ,, 1.7.5	
64 ,, Best & 66 Reed	,,	1.8.0 ,, 2.0.0	
66 @ 80 reed	,,	1.9.5 ,, 2.1.0	
Best	,,	2.2.5 ,, 2.8.0	
Drills, Am. 40 yd 30 in 15 lb. nom.		2.7.2½ ,, 2.8.5	
English, ,, 14 *a* 15-lbs.		1.8.6 ,, 2.0.0	0.1.0 ,,
Do. Fine to Finest ,,		No business.	
Dutch, 13 *a* 14½-lbs.		2.1.5 ,, 2.3.0	
Jeans, Dh., Best, 30 yd. 30 in. 8½ lbs		2.0.0 ,, 2.1.0	
English ,, ,, 8 *a* 8½ lbs.		1.4.3 ,, 1.9.7½	0.0.7½ ,,
American ,, ,,		1.8.5 ,, 2.5.0	
Sheetings—			
Amr., 40 yds. 36 *a* 38 in. 15 lbs. nom.		2.7.0 ,, 2.7.5	0.0.8 ,,
Eng., ,, ,, 14 *a* 16 lbs.		2.1.0 ,, 2.2.5	
T-Cloths—			
6-lbs. 24 yds. 32 in. Ord.	₱ pc.	0.7.5 ,, 1.0.0	
7-lbs. 24 yds. 32 in. Ord.	,,	0.9.7 ,, 1.0.8	0.0.4 ,,
6-lbs. Mex.	,,	,, ,,	
7-lbs. ,,	,,	1.1.7 ,, 1.4.6	
8 to 8¼-lbs.	,,	1.3.8 ,, 1.6.5	0.0.8 ,,
Better kinds and XX		1.7.0 ,, 2.0.0	
Handkerchiefs—			
Blue 28 *a* 31 in.	₱ dz.	0.5.1 ,, 0.7.0	0.0.2½ per doz.
Brown	,,	0.4.0 ,, 0.4.2	
Spotted Shirtings, White	₱ pc.	1.9.0 ,, 2.0.0	0.1.0 per pce.
Dyed.	,,	2.2.0 ,, 2.3.0	0.1.5 ,,
Brocades—White, 40 yds.	,,	1.8.0 ,, 2.0.0	0.1.0 ,,
Dyed	,,	2.6.0 ,, 2.8.5	0.1.0 ,,
Damasks, Dyed, 40 yds	,,	3.6.0 ,, 4.5.0	0.2.0 ,,
Gentian Shirtings	,,	1.9.5 ,, 2.2.0	0.1.5 ,,
Chintz—Assorted	,,	1.1.5 ,, 1.3.0	
Blue nom.	,,	1.2.5 ,, 1.4.0	0.0.7 ,,
Brown ,,	,,	1.5.0 ,, 1.6.0	
Scarlet ,,	,,	1.4.0 ,, 1.6.0	
Printed Twills—24/25 yds.		1.8.0 ,, 2.2.0	
50/52 ,,		3.6.0 ,, 4.2.0	0.0.7 per 30 yds.
,, ,, Best	,,	4.2.0 ,, 4.7.5	
T. Reds, 24 yd. 2 *a* 3 lb. 32 in. nom.		1.0.5 ,, 2.0.0	
Best	₱ pc.	2.2.0 ,, 2.6.5	0.1.5 per pce.
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	₱ yd.	0.1.6 ,, 0.1.8	0.1.8 ,,
Velveteens—Black, 18 in.	,,	0.1.0 ,, 0.1.3½	0.1.5 ,,
26 in.	,,	,, ,, ,,	
Blue Denims	,,	0.0.3½ ,, 0.0.5½	0.0.3¼ per 30 yds.
Dimities, 12 yds. 37 in.	₱ pc.	1.3.0 ,, 1.4.0	0.0.6½ per pce.
41 in.	,,	1.4.0 ,, 1.5.0	
Muslins, 12 yds. 42 in. nom.	,,	0.6.5 ,, 0.7.2½	0.0.3½ ,,
Yarn—Cotton—Nos. 28 *a* 32		65.0.0 ,, 85.0.0	0.7.0 per pcl.
Camlets, English, S S nom.	,,	12.3.0 ,, 13.2.0	
G G	,, ,,	12.9.0 ,, ...	0.0.5
S S G	,, ,,	12.9.0 ,, ...	
Dutch.....	Tls. ,,	18.5.0 ,, 20.5.0	
Medium & Broad Cloths	₱ yd.	0.7.0 ,, 1.4.0	0.1.2
Spanish Stripes	,,	0.5.0 ,, 0.5.5	
,, ,, T.T.-B	,,	0.5.7½ ,, ...	
,, ,, H.H.	,,	0.5.7½ ,, ...	
Long Ells—			
Scarlet, 24 yrd. H H nom.	₱ pc.	6.7.0 ,, ...	
,, C P H	,,	6.6.7½ ,, 6.7.0	
,, U U	,,	6.5.2½ ,, ...	0.0.4½
,, V	,,	6.4.5 ,, 6.4.7½	
Assorted, H H Nomi.	,,	,, ,, ...	
,, C P H	,,	..... ,, ...	
,, G G	,,	..... ,, ...	
,, U U	,,	..... ,, ...	

Per Chang of 141 inches.

QUOTATIONS—Duty Paid.			Duty.*
		T.m.c. T.m.c.	Tls. m. c.
Lastings, 30 yds	to	9.0.0 ,, 12.0.0	0.0.5 *Per Chang of 141 inches.*
Crape Lastings, 30 yds. nm.	,,	3.7.0 ,, 8.0.0	
Crape Lustres	,, ,,	3.0.0 ,, 3.5.0	
Plain—Do. Black	,, ,,	3.0.0 ,, 3.9.0	0.2.0 per pce.
Orleans—Fig., 30 yds.	,, ,,	2.6.0 ,, 3.6.0	
Special Colors & Patterns	,,	3.5.0 ,, 3.7.5	
Metals and Sundries.			
Quicksilver	pr pcl.	52.0.0 ,, ...	2.0.0 per pcl. Sales
Tin Plates—14 x 10	pr box.	4.9.0 ,, 5.0.0	0.4.0 ,,
Small ,,	,,	5.0.0 ,, ...	
Iron Wire—No. 11	pr pcl.	4.5.0 ,, ...	
12/16	,,	5.0.0 ,, ...	0.2.5 ,,
17/23	,,	6.5.0 ,, ...	
Straits Tin, Fong Hing.	,,	17.3.0 ,, ...	
Fok Chok.	,,	17.0.0 ,, ...	1.2.5 ,,
Common chops.	,,	13.0.0 ,, 16.0.0	
Steel	pr tub.	3.7.0 ,, 3.9.0	
Bamboo	pr pcl.	3.9.0 ,, 4.0.0	0.2.5 ,,
Japan Copper, Finger	,,	..... ,, ...	
Slab, best.	,,	18.5.0 ,, 18.7.0	0.6.0 ,,
Ore	,,	17.2.0 ,, ...	
Hoop Iron	,,	2.7.5 ,, 2.8.5	0.1.2½ ,,
Pig Iron	pr ton.	1.8 ,, 2.0	0.6.7½ ,,
Nailrod Iron—			
Dawes' Best	pr pcl.	2.5.5 ,, 2.6.0	
H. Rogers, Sons & Co.	,,	2.4.5 ,, 2.5.0	
Belgian	,,	2.1.5 ,, 2.2.0	0.1.2½ ,,
M. M. Crown	,,	2.4.0 ,, ...	
Bar—Dawes	,,	2.6.0 ,, 2.6.5	
Round	,,	2.7.0 ,, 2.7.5	
Lead—L B	,,	5.8.0 ,, ...	0.2.5 ,,
Common Brands	,,	..... ,, 5.7.2½	
Cotton, Common, nom.	,,	9.5.0 ,, 10.0.0	
Medium	,,	10.2.0 ,, 10.6.0	0.3.5 ,,
Best	,,	11.0.0 ,, 11.2.0	
Sugar—			
White, Swatow, No. 1	,,	5.4.0 ,, 5.8.0	0.2.0 ,,
,, 2	,,	4.8.0 ,, 5.2.0	.....
,, 3	,,	4.4.0 ,, 0.8.0	0.1.2 ,,
Canton, ,, 1	,,	4.5.0 ,, 5.0.0	
,, 2	,,	4.0.0 ,, 4.4.0	0.2.0 ,,
,, 3	,,	3.5.0 ,, 3.8.0	0.1.2 ,,
Brown, Swatow, Best	,,	2.5.0 ,, 3.0.0	0.2.0 ,,
Common	,,	2.0.0 ,, 2.5.0	
,, Canton	,,	2.5.0 ,, 3.0.0	0.1.2 ,,
,, ,, Common	,,	1.6.0 ,, 2.0.0	
Pepper—Black	,,	6.6.0 ,, ...	0.3.6 ,,
White	,,	11.0.0 ,, 11.5.0	0.5.0 ,,
Rattans—Common	,,	2.8.0 ,, 3.2.0	
Good to fine	,,	3.2.0 ,, 3.5.0	0.1.5 ,,
Best	,,	3.6.0 ,, 4.0.0	
Sapan Wood—			
3 pieces to the picul.	,,	2.8.0 ,, 3.0.0	
5 ,, ,, ,, & inf.	,,	1.8.0 ,, 2.4.0	0.1.0 ,,
Sandalwood, South Sea	,,	3.4.0 ,, 3.5.0	
Timor	,,	9.0.0 ,, 10.0.0	0.4.0 ,,
Malabar	,,	16.5.0 ,, 18.0.0	
Mangrove Bark	,,	0.7.0 ,, 1.3.0	0.0.3 ,,
Flint Stones	,,	0.5.0 ,, ...	
†Coals, Cardiff (to arrive)	,,	9.0.0 ,, ...	
American	,,	9.0.0 ,, ...	
Sydney (Bulli)	,,	7.5.0 ,, 8.0.0	
Newcastle, N.S.W.	,,	8.2.5 ,, ...	
Takasima (large)	,,	7.0.0 ,, ...	0.0.5 per ton.
(dust)	,,	..... ,, ...	
Japan	,,	5.2.5 ,, ...	
Formosa	,,	4.5.0 ,, ...	
Window Glass—			
Large	pr box.	2.9.0 ,, ...	0.1.5 per box 100 sq. feet.
Small	,,	2.4.5 ,, 2.8.0	

* Haikwan Sycee Tls. 100=Shanghai Currency Tls. 111.40. † Cargo quotations.

METALS.—*Iron—Nail-Rod.*—A sale of Dawes'—good assortment—at Tls. 2.55, and of Belgian at Tls. 2.25 is reported. *Lead.*—No sales from the first hand; Tls. 5.80 for L.B. is said to have been offered, but refused. *Tin, Quicksilver, &c.*, are lower.

FREIGHTS.—*Eliza Shaw*, British ship, 696 tons, Shanghai to London, no lay days—Private terms; *Haydn Brown* American barque, 861 tons, Shanghai to New York, no lay days—Private terms; *Almatia*, American schooner, 386 tons, Shanghai to Chefoo, no lay days—$800 in full; *Emulation*, British brig, 391 tons, Nagasaki and back, 16 lay days—$3.05 per ton; *Union*, British barque, 555 tons, Nagasaki and back, 16 lay days—$3.10 per ton; *Cutty Sark*, British ship, 921 tons, Nagasaki and back, no lay days—Private terms; *Spinaway*, British barque, 437 tons, Nagasaki and back, 15 lay days—$3.50 per ton; *John R. Worcester*, British ship, 844 tons, Nagasaki and back, no lay days—Private terms; *Eaglet*, British barque, 391 tons, Nagasaki and back, no lay days—$3.50 per ton; *Hilda*, British barque, 306 tons, Nagasaki to Taku, 10 lay days—$5.50 per ton.

COTTON.—The market is very quiet, and prices, though nominally unchanged, show signs of a lower tendency. Supplies remain very scanty.

EXCHANGE.—We have no alterations to report in Sterling rates; the market closes steady at 5s. 4¾d. for Bank bills, and 5s. 5¼d. for Private paper. The business for the mail has been on a small scale. On India, Rs. 310 *a* 310½. A few transactions are reported at Rs. 310 for Telegraphic transfers. On Hongkong, 27½ per cent. discount. There is not much demand at the rate.

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OPIUM.—Receipts of Opium since last report ..... MALWA, 1,180½ Chests.
Stock on 22nd ultimo..... ,, 3,461 ,,
Total... ,, 4,641½ ,,
Deliveries since 22nd ultimo. ..... ,, 1,850 ,,
Present Stock ..... ,, 2,791½ ,,

BENGAL, 65 Chests.
,, 1,437 ,,
Total... ,, 1,502 ,,
,, 691 ,,
,, 811 ,,

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cottons and Woollen Piece Goods for the Week ending 2nd April, 1877, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 66 to 70, both Nos. inclusive.

Goods.	Re-Exports and their Destination.													
	Ningpo.	Chinkiang.	Kiukiang.	Hankow.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Foochow.	Hongkong	Nagasaki.	Hiogo.	Yokohama.	Straits.	Local.
Grey Shirtings .....Pcs.	6,550	6,040	3,760	17,500	1,600	30,129	5,200	...	1,000	470	500	...	50	6,300
T-Cloths ..... ,,	5,605	3,030	,350	8,000	250	5,250	2,150	...	...	...	1,500	3,750	...	4,880
White Shirtings ..... ,,	580	500	310	2,720	100	9,934	...	...	...	160	90	...	...	1,850
Drills ..... ,,	105	75	...	1,723	...	3,370	240	...	...	400	820	1,530	...	630
Jeans ..... ,,	200	50	...	50	..	2,510	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
Sheetings ..... ,,	320	20	...	200	40	8,800	840	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Dyed Shirtings ..... ,,	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	...	...	...	304	...	...	...
Brocades and Spotted Shirtings, White ,,	...	...	...	150	...	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
,, ,, ,, Dyed ,,	...	...	...	100	50	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Damasks, Dyed..... ,,	...	40	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chintzes ..... ,,	60	180	80	665	...	850	460	...	...	...	...	...	...	560
Turkey Red Shirtings..... ,,	50	150	...	100	212	1,106	259	...	...	...	83	...	...	150
Velvets ..... ,,	...	24	25	222	...	223	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
Velveteens..... ,,	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Handkerchiefs ....Doz.	...	400	200	1,000	...	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,600
Muslins .....Pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dimities ..... ,,	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Spanish Stripes..... ,,	24	48	42	210	30	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	216
Medium and Broad Cloths ..... ,,	12	70	...	78	20	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Camlets ..... ,,	40	120	200	350	10	40	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Long Ells ..... ,,	...	20	20	440	20	60	...	...	...	...	60	...	...	100
Lastings ..... ,,	...	20	...	310	...	390	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Crape Lastings ..... ,,	...	20	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Lustres, Plain ..... ,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...	...	...
,, Figured ..... ,,	...	120	120	760	120	420	300	...	...	...	...	...	...	360
,, Crape ..... ,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead in Pigs .....Pcls.	383	129	1,237	338	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iron—Nail Rod ..... ,,	420	1,188	...	294	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Goods.	Deliveries.		Imports.		Stocks at date based on Chamber of Commerce Returns dated 1st Jan., 1877.		
	For Week.	For Year from 1st Jany. 1877.	For Week.	For Year from 1st Jany. 1877.	*At date Estimated.	†	Against 3rd April 1876.
Grey Shirtings .....Pcs.	79,099	1,048,381	184,930	1,353,331	1,192,600	257,800	315,700
T-Cloths ..... ,,	38,765	469,866	70,290	493,100	525,200	334,000	622,800
White Shirtings..... ,,	20,398	163,498	16,244	138,968	128,000	31,500	93,100
Drills ..... ,,	8,902	121,001	45,235	205,806	152,400	83,700	335,100
Jeans ..... ,,	2,970	55,128	10,830	78,160	40,460	.....	83,900
Sheetings..... ,,	10,360	28,000	24,974	86,370	73,000	13,100	68,500
Dyed Shirtings ..... ,,	404	3,650	854	1,188	.....	200	29,100
Brocades and Spotted Shirtings, White ,,	250	2,147	.....	1,503	6,600	.....	2,800
,, ,, ,, Dyed ,,	400	5,169	.....	2,500	?	.....	11,800
Damasks, Dyed ..... ,,	80	2,840	991	2,231	200	.....	3,500
Chintzes ..... ,,	2,855	28,431	7,211	23,681	19,300	.....	49,100
Turkey Red Shirtings ..... ,,	2,110	26,715	1,450	18,954	46,700	1,400	36,600
Velvets..... ,,	704	7,250	555	9,848	4,400	.....	16,300
Velveteens ..... ,,	72	1,686	.....	1,560	1,800	.....	11,500
Handkerchiefs .....Doz.	3,400	58,293	4,021	73,333	21,800	15,700	15,500
Muslins .....Pcs.	400	6,750	.....	7,406	3,100	3,800	16,000
Dimities ..... ,,	150	3,700	600	3,100	10,000	.....	7,300
Spanish Stripes ..... ,,	648	10,334	1,932	10,387	5,000	.....	4,800
Medium and Broad Cloths ..... ,,	346	4,651	846	5,224	15,700	5,700	16,000
Camlets ..... ,,	860	18,680	2,700	19,300	7,500	900	11,100
Long Ells..... ,,	720	18,350	5,360	21,920	8,500	3,600	10,100
Lastings ..... ,,	720	7,503	1,450	9,130	3,800	4,500	11,100
Crape Lastings ..... ,,	80	580	80	80	?	4,800	7,300
Lustres, Plain..... ,,	150	2,495	... ..	1,800	5,600	1,200	8,200
,, Figured ..... ,,	2,200	26,242	6,763	26,097	10,700	.....	16,300
,, Crape ..... ,,	279	1,778	.....	2,350	1,900	.....	300
Lead in Pigs .....Pcls.	2,687	34,572	256	31,395	.....	.....	.....
Iron—Nail Rod ..... ,,	1,902	17,222	.....	39,719	.....	.....	.....

* Exclusive of Import Cargoes ex *Geelong, Macgregor, Glenlyon, Agamemnon, Loudoun Castle, Djemnah, Khiva, Eliza Shaw, Antenor, Glenartney,* several Coasters, and of sundry Re-exports.

† Differences—excess—between the stocks of goods sold and unsold on 31st December last, as shewn by the tables compiled by myself, and those given in the list issued by the "Chamber of Commerce" on 17th January last. See "Shanghai Trade Report," No. 253, p. 3. *The estimated stocks at date, as above stated, are based upon the list issued by the Chamber of Commerce; but that, in several of the more important items, is believed to be incorrect, inasmuch as certain Chinese, who were heavy holders, were not called upon for, and did not render any Returns at the close of last year. Thus the basis being faulty, the superstructure is imperfect, and these differences must be added to it by the concerned, if they would know the actual position of stocks, at date, or the closest approximation thereto that can be made with the resources at the command of the public.*

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EXPORTS.

SILK.—The shipment of the 510 bales by the French mail last week was partly composed of purchases held over the preceding P. & O. steamer, and partly consignment on account of natives.

Further depressing advices by wire of the state of the home markets, and the suspension of business here during the Easter holidays have combined to check any inclination to operate, notwithstanding the silkmen have been willing sellers at a considerable reduction on prices current a fortnight since. In Tsatlees about 30 bales of chop silks have been settled, rates paid being Tls. 400 for Koo-fong-sing's No. 3, and Tls. 485 for Tso-ping's "Chick" chop, which shows a fall of about Tls 40 *a* 50 per picul, and there has been a small demand for Wosoih Tayasams at Tls. 250 *a* 275 Counting settlements on native consignment the business for the fortnight is estimated at 1,200 bales, making a total of 70,300 for the season to date, against 67,800 at this time last year.

The American mail s.s. "*Saikio Maru*" which sailed yesterday took 59 bales of re-reels on Chinese account, Tls. 420 *a* 480 being the nominal quotation for true Tsatlees of medium quality.

To the majority of the middlemen the average out-turn of the prices paid here must have proved disastrous; common coarse and yellow silks have met with no enquiry to speak of for a considerable time, and the probability at present seems to be that these classes of silk will be neglected at the opening anyhow of season 1877 × 1878, and that a good deal less than usual will be sent to this port for foreign exportation.

The unsold stock is about 11,000 *a* 11,500 bales.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

April 5, 1877.

Arrivals.—(Not reported above.)—April 2nd, British barques *Wollahra* and *Lady Bowen*, from Sydney.

Departures.—(Not reported above.)—March 29th, British barque *Courtney*, for New York. April 1st, British steamer *Agamemnon*, for London.

The English mail steamer *Khiva* takes about 700 bales of Silk.

Shares.—Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report, at noon to-day, says:—

H. & S. Bank,—Shares have changed hands at 31 %, and exchange 73. More might be placed at the same rates.
S. S. N. Co.—A number have been sold at Tls. 31, at which rate the market is firm.
China Coast S. N. Co.—Some sales have been made at Tls. 70. There are still some shares offering at this rate,
Shanghai Gas Co.—A sale is reported at Tls. 142.
Yangtsze Insurance Association.—Shares are wanted at higher rates. Holders ask Tls. 640.
Chinese Insurance Co.—There are buyers at par.
Chinese Imperial Government Loan Bonds.—A lot was sold to-day at £106.

Land.—On Saturday, the well-known premises on the French Sikawei road, bearing the name of "An Chalet," were offered for sale by Messrs. Mackenzie & Co. The biddings not reaching the reserve, the property was bought in for Tls. 1,500.

The weather has been variable and sensibly warmer. The thermometer has ranged between 41 and 61.

Shanghai Share Market.

Stock,	Paid up.	Divid. Last Year.	Closing Quotations.
Banks.			
H'kong and S'hai Banking Corpn.	$ 125	£2 per share	31 % Ex. 73 (Tls. 119.53½)
Steamer Cos.	Tls.		Tls.
Shanghai Steam Navigation Co..	100	7 %	31.
China Coast S. N. Co.	Tl. 100	5 %	Tls 65
China Merchants S. S. Co.....	600	15 %	70.
Docks.			
Shanghai Dock Co.	Tl. 500	T. 20 p. sh.	200 ex div.
Pootung Dock Co..	„ 100	10 %	78½ „
Gas.			
Shanghai Gas Co..	100	11 %	Tls 142
French Gas Co....	50	11 %	75
Insurance.			
China Traders' Co. (Limited)	$1,500		$2,000 Ex. 74.
N.-China I. Co.	Tl. 600	....	910
Union Ins. Society of Canton	500	....	$ 726
Yangtsze Insurance Association	Tl. 500	15 %	Tls. 610
China and Japan Marine Ins. Co...	..	....	nominal.
Chinese Insurance Co. (Limited) ..	$ 250	12 %	$ 200 Ex. 74
H'kong Fire Ins. Co. (Limited) ..	200	$ 47.50 p. sh.	$ 512 Ex. 74
China Fire Ins. Co. (Limited)	100	12 %	149 Ex. 73 (Tls. 108.77.)
Miscellaneous.			
S'hai and Hongkew Wharf Co.	100	7 %	85
S'hai Tug Boat Ass.	100	....	nominal.
S'hai Mun. Debentures—loan 1872.	100	8 %	105 nomi.
Do. „ 1873.	100	8 %	104 „
Chinese Imperial Loan	£95	8 %	£104
	£5		
Theatre Debentures	25	8 %	Tls. 13
Shanghai Racquet Club	120	....	90

Exchange.

Bank Sight Rate on Hongkong.. 72⅞

J. P. BISSET & Co.,
Sharebrokers.

PASSENGERS.

Departed.

Per str. *Agamemnon*, for London—Mrs. Saunders and child, Master McClatchie, and Mr. Milee. For Amoy—Messrs. B. Christiernsson and Darling.

Per str. *Shanghai*, for Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Jerdein, Messrs. H. Maudsley, R. G. Ogle, H. B. Armstrong, A. Hickling, and Capt. Socoloff.

Per str. *Europe*, for Foochow—Mrs. Krohn, and Lieut. Schultz and servant.

Per str. *Saikio Maru*, for Nagasaki—Miss Shinagawa, and Mr. M. C. Adams; 6 Europeans, 9 Chinese, and 4 Japanese in steerage. For Hiogo—Messrs. F. S. Stanley, Bernard dit Fleury, De Kergos, and F. M. Youd; 13 Chinese in steerage. For Yokohama—Mrs. Burns and daughter, Mrs. Youd, Mrs. D'Iffanger, Mons. Lacroix, and Mons. Coullant; 3 Europeans, 3 Chinese, and 3 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco—Dr. MacLeod, Messrs. M. A. West, A. E. Salter, and W. J. Tennant.

Arrived.

Per str. *Hochung*, from Hongkong—Mr. Macpherson. From Foochow—Mr. Matthews.

Per str. *Kiang-yuen*, from Hankow—Rev. A. Foster.

Per str. *Khiva*, from Venice—Mr. R. Anderson. From Brindisi—Mr. A. W. Sayle. From Bombay—Mr. N. Banajee. From Hongkong—Capt. T. Black, Messrs. Chongkong and Nechong; 113 Chinese in steerage.

Per str. *Sin Nanzing*, from Chefoo—Mr. Clarke; 7 Chinese in steerage.

Per str. *Chin-tung*, from Tientsin—Mr. Robert Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Imbert, and four other Europeans.

Per str. *Kiang-yung*, from Hankow—Capt. Hardie; 100 Chinese in steerage.

Per str. *Kiang Piau*, from Chinkiang—Mr. Obey.

Per str. *Europe*, from Foochow—Mr. and Mrs. Power, Mr. and Mrs. Walkinshaw, and Mr. D. J. Jardine; 11 Chinese in steerage.

Per str. *Hankow*, from Hankow—Mr. Haslam.

Per str. *Glenartney*, from Hongkong—Mr. Nelson.

Per str. *Nagoya Maru*, from Japan—Mrs. Plumb, Miss Gordin, Messrs. J. P. C. Manford, L. Fraser, J. M. Kelly, J. K. Morrison, W. De Russett, J. A. Blogg, P. V. Grant, W. Robertson, and Littlefield; 2 Europeans, 2 Japanese, and 8 Chinese in steerage.

Per str. *Taku*, from Tientsin—Mr. Fairless; 20 Chinese in steerage.

Leaving.

Per steamer *Khiva*, for Southampton—Mr. J. Hampson. For Hongkong—Mr. J. Risch, and Mr. A. Devejee and servant.

HANKOW.

The Hankow Chamber of Commerce Report says the demand for cotton goods has been small during the fortnight; but prices at the close are firmer and show an advance of ⅡⅡ candareens.—A fair business has been done in hides.—Under the present opposition between the two river steamer Companies, rates are nominal.

CHINKIANG.

Messrs. Spencer and Wolffe write on the 4th April:—We are still unable to report any improvement in the position of our market for Manchester goods; indeed business during the past week has been almost entirely suspended, and late advices from the country are of such a nature as to give us but little hope of seeing much improvement before the gathering of the Spring crops at the end of next month. Under these circumstances we refrain from any attempt at giving quotations. *Malwa Opium.*—There is no change to note in this market. Drug of the quality that usually reaches this port, has continued selling at Tls. 426 *a* 428; whilst really best hard cakes would readily fetch Tls. 430 *a* 432.

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February, 1877.
7, Hankow Road. tf 2809

THE
NORTH-CHINA & JAPAN
DESK HONG LIST,
(A full and very complete Directory for North-China and Japan),
FOR THE YEAR
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IS ready for delivery. It contains Directories for Foochow and all the River and Northern Ports and Peking, also of the open Ports in Japan, and a NEW MAP OF CHINA, giving *Margary's, Lagrée and Garnier's, T. T. Cooper's* and *Baber's Routes*; Street Plan of the English, French and American Settlements; Events connect with China, and other New Matter. Full particulars of which see Index Advertisement.

We have a copy of the "Desk Hong List for 1877," which makes its appearance much earlier than last year, without, so far as we can discover, any sacrifice of accuracy. The Publishers generally manage to introduce some improvements and additions, and there are several in the volume before us—notably, a very much improved map of China at the commencement, with much fuller nomenclature, and with an outline of the routes followed by T. T. Cooper, Garnier, and Margary, in the several expeditions. This is backed by a Street Plan of the Settlement, to which also additions have been made. The Directories themselves appear, so far as we can judge, to be fairly accurate. Mistakes of course there are; perfection is unattainable here below, particularly in the matter of Hong Lists, when changes are constantly occurring and happen even in the interval between the compilation and printing of the several sheets. It is surprising indeed how great are these changes in the course of a year, in so small a community as that of Shanghai, which we are apt to consider now more or less settled. —An addition is made to the mail information, by the insertion of a table of proposed movements of steamers by the Torres Straits route to Australia. Altogether, "The North-China and Japan Desk Hong List for 1877" sustains its character, and will be found an exceedingly useful publication at every port within the area it professes to deal with.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

We acknowledge with thanks a copy of the "New Desk Hong List for 1877." It contains, among other useful things, a street-plan of the settlement, and a map of China, showing the various routes taken by Garnier and Lagrée, Margary, Baber, and T. T. Cooper, well and distinctly marked. The Directory is very much as it was before, except that the sexton's name has been omitted from the hierarchy of Trinity Cathedral.—*Sh. Courier.*

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the "North-China and Japan Desk Hong List for 1877," published at the *N.-C. Herald* office, Shanghai. This work, which has made its appearance in rather better time this year, contains some few improvements and additions. The map of China with which it is adorned is much superior to that issued last year, and as the routes taken by Messrs. Margary, Cooper, and Garnier, in their expeditions through the Western provinces are indicated thereon, it will prove of value for reference. The Hong List is well printed, on better paper than usual, and altogether it reflects much credit on the publishers.—*Daily Press.*

Whatever disadvantages residents in the Far East have to labour under, we do not think there can be numbered amongst them a lack of such aids in their business as can be supplied from the printing press. They have newspapers, we think we can very well say, in abundance, directories, Anglo-Chinese calendars, and date-blocks, mail cards, and so on *ad infinitum*. We have before us one of the latest issued of these useful aids in the shape of the "North-China and Japan Desk Hong List for 1877," published at the *North-China Herald* Office, Shanghai. It is a carefully and tastefully compiled work, full of information respecting business and official establishments, streets, money and postal rates, tariffs, fares, tables, and the hundred-and-one other matters to which the business man in China finds it necessary to make constant reference. The work is also an exceptionally comprehensive one, embracing as it does several of the treaty ports in China in addition to Shanghai, and, we believe, all the open ports in Japan. It is also embellished with a map of China, marked with the routes pursued by Margary, Cooper, and Garnier.—*China Mail.*

The "North-China and Japan Desk Hong List for 1877" appears as usual in its neat and handy form, giving full information with regard to the Diplomatic and Consular establishments in Japan. The names of the men-of-war and the officers of different nations on the station, the projected movements of the various Mail Companies, and useful tables for valuing Imports, a comprehensive map of China and the English, French and American settlements in Shanghai is also attached.—*The Cosmopolitan Press. (Nagasaki.)*

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the "North China and Japan Desk Hong List," and the "Japan Gazette Hong List for 1877." They are both up to their usual mark in excellence, and the former contains a large amount of information of very considerable value to all dwellers in these parts.—*Hiogo News.*

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